

THE
SECOND AND
LAST PART OF
THE FIRST BOOKE

of the English Arcadia.

Making a compleate end of the first
HISTORY:

Full of various deceptions, and much
Interchangeable matter of wit.

Amant alterna Camenæ.

By G. M.



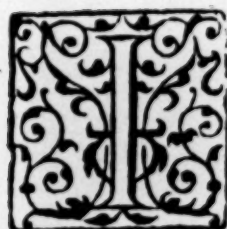
LONDON.

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are to be sold at his Shop in *Holborne* at the
Signe of the Mer-maid. 1613.



TO HIS DEERE
AND MOST RE-
SPECTED FRIEND, MAISTER

Francis Darlow, of Graies-Inne
Esquire.



If Paper could containe the li-
mires of our affections, then
would I tender you in this little
Epistle, as large a loue, and as vn-
blemished as hee that hath the
deereſt place in your boſome: But as it is with-
out circumference, ſo I hope it ſhall euer re-
maine without caule of cenſure. I haue choſen
you for the ſupport of this my weake Orphan
Booke, for three cauſes.

First, becauſe I know you are learned, and
how-ſoeuer you priuately chide mee for any
abſurde paſſage, yet you will lend ſtrength to
its weake limbes, and with your goodneſſe
guild the deformities, were they groſſer then I
know they will appeare in an enuiouſ opinion.

A 3

Secondly,

The Epistle Dedicatory.

Secondly, because you know mee, and I hope haue not noted myne *Herodias*, to bee either detraction or slander.


And lastly, because you being versed amongst great men, and in great societies (where my wits-whipping post is onely erected) may, if you be pleased, say, when they say my worke fauours of ostentation, that it is the least sinne my soule labours vnder. For that power which did (and there was great reason it euer should to do) gouerne all the powers within mee, by a forcible commandement bound mee to doe what is done, the name and methode being neither of mine election: But why should I trouble your eares with this Apology? It sufficeth me that if you say it speaketh good English, I shall bee much negligent of any other mans derision; for it is vertue and iudgement, not titles and apparell that I seeke to satisfie: Bee you then pleased, not to be displeased with mine vnacquainted dedication, and I shall euer liue knit to your loue faithfull.

G. M.

To



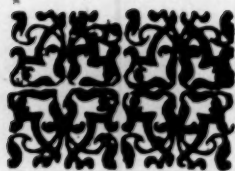
To the vnnderstanding Reader,
For hee which hath knowledge needes
not my wordes.

 Ensure, which is the whipping Beadle to punish maisterlesse bookes, seeing the first part of this booke walke abroad without any livery of Dedication on his backe, tiranously ceaz'd him, and neuer left till he brought him to the house of Correction to be iudged by the maisters of all criticall opinions. O how lamentably pale the poore booke looks in the Margent. whilst one sayes (and thinkes he sayes wisely) that the name shewes the naturall pride of the parents; as if none should be cal'd Alexander that could not conquer the world, nor any Iacob that could not deceiue his brother; nor this Arcadia, except by many degrees it could exceed the whole world both in words and inuention: Forgetfull how many God-brothers, and selfe-like Pamphelts had past through the world with the same title. Another sayes, the alusion is not tollerable; as if poore-men should not borrow from the rich, or that vertue should euer liue so alone, that no man should dare to bee her imitator. Nay, saies a third, the great high-treason of all, is to make Noble Sir Phillip Sidney acquainted, either with Diana, or else Heliodorus, as if the excellency of his minde had disdained that which first brought it to perfection (Iudiciall reading) ò no, were he

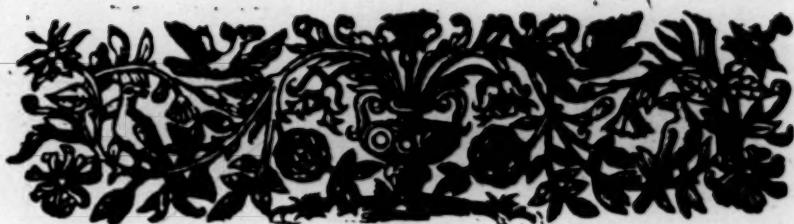
To the Reader.

on the earth, he would repine at their curiosity, and tell them, that his contemplative labour first brought him to active worthinesse. Thus was the poore booke mightly accused, and seuercly threatned, till appealing to scholar-like discretion (which with fauour ballanceth words and their interpretations) hee was acquit, without any farther wounding then that which folly had imposed. From which, since no Art can defend it selfe, wisdom hath giuen their carping this curse, that his blowes shall not smart, nor his worst enuy be at any time regarded. O you then of little learning and great boast, be fauourable to this poore fragment of paper, and though it receiue some buffets from your lips, yet out of the charity, with which you are not acquainted, let not your enuies finde more faults then are visible, so shall the Authour, heereafter, extoll your patience, and no more laugh at your wants of iudgement.

G. M.



The



The second, and last part of the first
Booke, of the Morall English
Arcadia, making up the first com-
plete History.



TH infinite varieties where-
 with the hand of Fortune feed-
 deth the hungry cares of
 change-desiring-man; are so full
 of hony-poysons, that with our
 vncloid appetites wee seeke to
 swallow that with delight, which
 with greatest earnestnesse wee
 haue fled from, and eschew'd as our worst torment;
 al-be the face carry euer one character, onely the
 shape, disguis'd in a roabe of new fashion, as (most
 excellent sonne) thou shalt perceiue by this conti-
 nuance of my most true History. For no sooner had
 the Maiden, wonder of all beauties, (I meane the in-
 comparable Princessse *Mellidora*) and the sharpe
 witted *Ethera*, conueyed my drowsie-dead-seeming
 body into a priuate Arbor, adioyning vnto the
 Chappell of the great God *Pan*, but there, they two,
 with there dainty hands, disrob'd me of my gowne,
 B of

The second part of the first Booke

of my hood, of my booke, of my beads, of my glasse, and of my staffe; and surely had not my old age bene so inseparably fixed to my constitution, that it was not in the power of a moment to take away the worke of many yeeres, I thinke they had not left it alone to continue with me; and with these, which were the high ornaments of my age, the Nymph *Ethra* disadorned the Princessse, and so covertly couered the beames of beauty, youth, and all excellency, in the shadow of decrepitnessse, old age, and long miseries, that euen Truth it selfe at that time might haue bene mis-taken in Truth-knowing; and thy selfe (my sonne) wouldst haue said (hadst thou seene so goodly a body in so humble a monument) that there was neuer Iewell of greater worth more basely inammelled. But hauing brought to passe, the first act of the cunning Nymphes passages (which was disguis'd) she conuei'd the Princessse to the former seate whic they first found mee, and there, with many pretty coniurations of affectation in speech, humility in action, doubt in resolutions, sanctity in ceremonies, and a generall sectrecy euen in despight of loues worst commandement; the Nymph *Ethra* left the Princessse to the hazard of fortune, and the manage of her owne wittes, whilst she returned to me, that was all drowned in sleep, and arming her selfe to giue sleepe a greater power, who had taken from mee all power but sleeping, she sang this triumphant *Peane* ouer mee, instead of a lullaby.

*Care and complaint, you sonnes of loues wrest,
Sighes, teares and thoughts, the foode of discontent,
Else*

Of the English Arcadia.

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*Flie farther from mee then the East from West,
For all my woes and mourning times are spent:*

*And come faire Hope, Truths comfort, and Desire,
Tow that haue blinded Argus thousand eyes,
The tel-tale Moone, and all those spots of fire,
Which to the close night are continuall spies:*

*O! come and banquet with my pleased heart,
Whilst my sighes breath to musicke turnes his aire,
Disgrace to grace, and paine to pleasures part
All my dislike to all I can hold deere:*

*For since my hope in spight of hope is wonne
My loue to hope by none shall be vndone.*

But during the time that the Nymph, with her charming melody, added a superfluous fether to mine already bound vp senses, The Princessse, with a minde, variously ouer-burthened with hope, with feare, with desire, with amazement, and with all the extremest worst of confused passions; fate, infinitely longing for that some-thing, which she more, infinitely, feared would present her with nothing; till in the end, casting her faire eye-sight, from the cloudy curtaines of her aged disguise, shee might discerne *Siluasio*, and diuers others of his fellow Forresters, accompanied with the discrete *Oppidum*; and many other Shepheards came marching towards her; and behind them, as a man forlorne, and euen vnworthy of society, she might behold the most miserable *Thirsis* (whose heauy pace, keeping time with the heauinesse of his thoughts, shewed that the honour of griefe was onely extreme heauinesse) borne more vpon the secte of his wofullest cogitations

The second part of the first Booke

cogitations, then the faire wings of any desired hope, came with such true deiection, and impossible to be feyned humility, that euen sorrow it selfe would haue confessed shee had no throne more strong or beautifull then his sorrowfulnesse; As soone as the Forresters were come into the presence of the Princesse (as then supposed to bee the Priest and Prophet to the great God *Pan*) *Silnagio* with a Gentlemanly ciuility, presenting vnto her the side of an excellent Bucke of that season, spake in this manner.

Father, (said he) as your pursuite of vertue hath brought you to the most honourable title of the most vertuous, and as your adoration to your God hath brought you to the seruices of men; so let me (in the name of all the Forresters of these *Thessalian* lands, dedicate to the great Goddesse *Diana*) humbly intreate, from the depth of your Prophetique and admired wisdome, some ample cure for the vnexpressable sorrow of the euer-best-deseruing *Thirsis*; the rather, sith thereby, our Forrest lands, and delightfull Groues, shall receiue, euen, a new verdure, and a flourishing beauty, from the sweete musicke of his excellent inuention, and your selfe the honour of performing the best worke of mortality; to which, shall be knit the eternall prayers of after-living-ages.

Scarcely, had *Silnagio* deliuered this vrging Oratory, when *Oppicus*, (as a man fearefull to bee late in the seconding of so notable a businesse) stept euen betwixt his voice and his inuention, and presenting vnto the supposed Prophet a new slaine Kid,
with

with that rurall grauity, which, euen of wisedome it selfe, is accounted the most honest, modestly spake in this manner.

Accept (quoth he) deere Father I beseech thee the symple presents of the country Shepheards, we dare not to tempt thee with the garish poyson of the Citty potentate; our naked life is an enemy to such glistering noysomnesse; little is our substance, little our desires, and least of all our ambitions; those fruits to our tastes are most delicious to which our hands are father, the earth mother, and our owne toiles the mid-wife; and the cleere springs do sooner coole the burnings of our thirsts, then the rich clusters of the most fruitfull Vine-yard: our want and our wishes haue both one poise without disorder; therefore, such as wee haue accept from such as wee be; a tender Kid, the lewell of many Flockes, which we wish may be a propitious sacrifice to the great God Pan and thee, that yet, ere our sorrowes be full sum'd vp with dispaire, we may behold some reliefe for our vnrelieued *Thirsis*.

This said, another Shepeheard presents her with a bunch of rootes, which, he vowes, sprang to their greamesse with no other moisture then the teares he had shed vpon them to behold *Thirsis* sorrowfulnes.

Another presents her with Cakes and Cracknels, which hauing bene ordained for the solemnity of much triuinph, were now made petitioners for the greatest sorrow: And thus, one after one, they present her with many gifts, yet make suit but for one goodnesse, which was, the health of him that was the health of all that beheld him; in so much, that

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when the Princeſſe beheld their generall lamentations, ſhe could not forbear, but in ſpight of reſolution, thus to ſuffer pittie (though a ſtranger) to ſpeak vnto her heart.

Poore *Thirſis*, how art thou bemon'd of all, ſaue onely of her, of whom thou haſt deſerued more then moſt of all; And as it would haue more ſpoken, baſhfulneſſe control'd it, while *Thirſis* himſelfe approaching neere vnto the ſuppoſed Hermite, after the vaile of his Bonnet, and the well grac'd bent of a comely knee, thus ſpake vnto her.

Good father, as by the diuine auguriſme of your holy knowledge, there is left nothing vn-reuealed, either what my ſtarres preſage, or my deſtiny hath prefixed, touching the vnhappy paſſage of my miſfortun'd life; ſo let me humbly intreate, that for the accompliſhment of my diſpaire, I may know the end of my deſires.

Sonne, (quoth the Princeſſe, with an orderly well chang'd voyce) firſt let me vnderſtand what it is that you deſire? I deſire (quoth he) the grace and fauour of the moſt excellent creature that euer Nature acknowledged: What is her name (quoth the Princeſſe?) *Melidora* (ſaid the Shepeheard) and at that word a ſigh flew with ſuch violence from his boſome, that his body, like a windy poſtume, made all his members ſhake. O (ſaid the Princeſſe) I know her well, ſhe is a proud and diſdainefull dame, and full of all the curioſities of greatneſſe. O ſie, (ſaid *Thirſis*) that blaſphemy ſhould come from goodneſſe; I tell you ſhe is as farre from pride, as Deity from ſinne, and as great an enemy to diſdaine

as vertue to viciousnesse; alas! she will not tread vpon a respectlesse worme, nor will she remoue her eye from the worst of miserie: O shee is all that euer can be said to bee compleate; and, onely, a modest and sweete regard of honour is the opposition of my happinesse; for shee preferres a loue more worthy (though not more true) before mee: Then (said the Princessse) run in an euen line, prefer some other before her. Bid me (said the Sheepeheard) create a second Nature, make a new world, set *Saturne* in his first gloriousnesse: all is more easie, then to alter my resolution. Darest thou not (said the supposed Hermit) with the helpe of thy friends, attempt to steale her, if opportunity should present her vnto thee? Not for this whole worlds Monarchy (said *Thixis*) vnblemisht affection can bee compelled by no violence, and may mine eies sooner fall from my head then such villany should issue from mine actions. Why (said the Princessse) dare you aduenture to conquer her by charmes? If (said the Sheepeheard) the eternall tribute of an euerlasting faith; the neuer-ending-seruice of a continuall working soule; if the tedious suite of a wretched fortune; the prayers of dilacerated misery, or the desert of constancy had power to inchant: O shee had long since bene bewitched with vnloosable incantations. But this examination (Father) doth but call backe my haplesnes: I beseech you what successe will follow my fortunes? Thy fate (said the Princessse) hath bene full of affliction, and thy fortunes to come are accompanied with great doubts; looke in this glasse and tell me what thou beholdest therein; and with that she drew forth the
the

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the Prophetique mirrour, into which the Sheepeheard gaz'd with such earnestnesse of minde that calling all his powers and sences into his eies they seem'd to hold a counsaile in his misery; in the end he told her, hee saw nothing but a weather-wracked ship, tost and turmoi'd on a tempestious sea; hauing neither Maister, Pilot, Card, nor Compasse; yet in despite of the vnruely billowes she made forth her way, not by the direction of Art, but, onely, by the hand of Fortune; vpon her Keele (he said) he saw an inscription, which being drawne in large characters appear'd to be *Scinditur incertum*; at which words the Princessse tooke the glasse from his sight, and commanded him, without daring the trouble of more words, to depart, and thinke on the incertainties he had seene.

Well (said the Sheepeheard, with a sigh as heauy as his countenance) my life hath bene onely the companion of Danger, and my present estate is the throne of all fearefulnessse; yet when all Art, wit, and industry shall refuse me, Fortune may erect the broken Pyramid of my destiny; but alas, I delude my fancy with a flattering hope, and yet whatsoever is, is incertaine, is euer indifferent, and may proue well in despite of Enuy. And when he had thus said, he turned about to his friends, and taking *Silvagio* by the hand hee departed, saying.

I am the slaue of Fortune: Oh that her inconstancy and my misery might expire in one moment; but scarcely was he gotten out of the view of the holy well, when *Diatassan*, by another path, arriued before the presence of the Princessse, and beholding her
with

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5

with deceiued eies, he said; All the blisse that can be wisht to goodnesse accompany thy holy meditations, for if my eyes benot erronious intelligencers you belong to the holy Chappell of our great God *Pan*. I honour (said the Princessse) him and it. Then reuerent Father (said the Sheeheard) as you haue from the world (by the reuelation of doubfull Oracles, by vertue vnspeakeable, and a sober life vnimitable) wonne an honour, which shall liue, when euen time is consumed; so let me intreate you to deliuer the iudgement of your wisdom, in a case that's intricate, and begirts me with much torment. The Princessse, beholding her Sheeheard with the iealous eies of a suspitious feare, was so transported with distempered passions, that wisdom had much a do to gouerne affection: Yet desire to know what of all things she desired not to know, so temper'd both her will and actions, that with a voice which was musickall, euen in scyned roughnesse, she said.

Whence (Sheeheard) growes the ground of thy torment?

From this (he replied) I serue a Nymph in holy, vnspotted, and neuer-changing-loue, and desire the end of my hope, which is onely enioyment.

What is her name (said the Princessse?) Men call her *Aphelasia*: with which word, he thunder-struck the Princessse in such sort, that passion, breaking the bonds of reason, she could not forbear, but with a loud voyce cry'd, *Ha*; at which emphasis, wisdom controll'd her admiration, and smothering her displeasure, till it had gotten more ripenesse; with wordes, sutable to a constrain'd patience, she said:

C

Where

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Where (gentle Sheepeheard) did your first acquaintance take knowledge of that Nymph?

At *Minerva's* Spring (answered he:) Vpon what day (saide she?) Vpon *Minerva's* feast (quoth hee) at what time, the euening wooing the Sunne to abate much of his brightnesse; she, with many of her sisters, resorted to the holy Well, where they sung, and danc't so rarely about it, that neither Fairy, nor Angell, but might haue learnt perfection from her motions.

What fauour (saide the Princessse) did she giue you? I, now you touch my doubtful vexation (saide he;) she gaue me this pretious and wel-wrought Iewel which I weare for her, in which is curiously purtraid, by the hand of an vnmatchable worke-man, the boundlesse bounding spheres of heauen, which with their continuall motions, runne eternally about the earth, within the brightnesse of which Firmament is written *MANENS MONCOR*, an Enygma Father, which your wisdom, onely, must make me vnderstand.

It seemes (saide the Princessse) her iealousy mistrusts your faithfulnessse. Do you not loue some other Nymph besides her? No Nymph (quoth he) on earth but her. Take heed (saide she) reuolt is enemy to all vertuousnesse. By heauen and earth (quoth he) And as his mouth was euen big swolne with execrations, shee stopt them in his Throate, saying: O for mercies sake, sonne, do not sweare, they blasphem which teach that *Ioue* respects not louers periuries; belecue it, thunder had not bene made, had it not bene to reuenge such faithlesnesse; Why the oaths of louers, are the Carols of Angels, so that the
Gods

Gods themselues keepe them in an eternall memory: And as she was pursuing this speech, he interrupted her earneſtneſſe ſaying.

Father, reſolution, that ſhould euer bee armed with wiſedome; and that wiſedome which euer ſhould direct vs in a vertuous path, when wee ſtand before ſuch holy ones as your ſelfe, ſortefies me ſo ſtrongly, that here I dare boldly vow, in the ſight of heauen and earth, and as I hope for enioyment of the ioyes my ſoule deſireth, by the faire ſpring which is the luſter of our firſt profits; and by thoſe dry ſeaſons which preſerue our Flockes from periſhing, I loue on earth no Nymph but *Apheleia*.

Shall I ſay it was a rage? ſo no her patience was victor ouer ſuch paſſions. Shall I ſay it was a iealous enuy? no, her temperance was neuer acquainted with ſuch furies. Shall I ſay it was a violence vnbounded which then ceaz'd on the Princeſſe? no her wiſedome was euer greater then her affections. But it was an vnkind griefe; or a griefe mixt with ſo much ouermaiſtring vnkindneſſe, that ſhe, not being able any longer to endure his vnnaturall apoſtacy, throweth the Hermites weede from her backe, and like the Sunne appearing from the darke cold Ocean, ſhe diſcouers her owne natiue beames in their wortheſt perfection; yet her minde, ſo gouern'd by a ſorrow which was like anger, that euen in the caſting off her diſguiſe, ſhe ſaid.

Can heart or eares endure this falſhood? thou Traytor to vertue, loue, and the life of Ladies; thou false, diſloyall, and the moſt periur'd of all Sheepe-heards: thou canker of affection, thou impoſtuma-

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tion vpon the eye of goodnesse; thou to whom no Epithiton can be giuen equall with thy wickednesse. I pray thee pardon mee, thyne euill hath made my tongue much more euill; indeed I haue not heretofore bene acquainted with rayling, it is the madnesse of my passion, not the fault of my nature; excuse it with thyne owne crime, and onely to thee that art the worst of man, here me vtter these few complaininges.

Didst thou not once, with a minde (in mine appearance) well settled and preiudicate, swear by thy Shepheards crooke, (the ensigne of thy profession) by thy Bow and Darts, (the instruments of thy pleasure;) and by the Deity of *Minerva* (the Patronesse of our *Tempe*?) Nay, hast thou not cal'd euery Planet to witnesse, and inuok't euery Starre to beare record; that no creature but my selfe had place in thine affection? and art thou now thus suddainely trans-form'd- and dis figured? Beleeue it, thy Sheephooke will no more performe it's office, and thy Bow will breake when thou takest most delight in't, *Minerva* will spit thee from her walkes; the Planets will runne in opposition with thy fortunes; and the Starres will droppe from heauen before they will giue light to thy foote-steps, O *Aphelia*, *Aphelia*, I made a scorne of thy modest seriousnessse, but the disgrace is fixed on mine owne countenance: Did I, vnkind Sheepe-heard, (wrath would terme thee worse) discouer all that past betwixt that vertuous Nymph and my selfe, in the holy *Fame* of our Goddesse, that thereby thou should disgrace and deride me? Do but call into thy remembrance (if thy memory

mory haue left in it any seate for goodnesse) the aduancements I haue giuen thee? ranking thee before the best worth, and making thee most worthy in mens praises, that art all vnworthinesse in thine owne nature: For thy sake, the mirrour of all wit and perfection, the most deseruedly-admired *Thirsis*, he that hath euer flowne with his owne plumes, whom men adore for his owne goodnesse, not for the countenance of greatnesse; whose vnlimited affection is the schoole of true loue; whose noble constancy makes the two poles ioy in their firmenesse; and whose faith, like the Sunne, liues euer without a companion: He, euen he, whose sorrowes hath bred sorrow in all things which haue sence; was for thee, heart-slaine, forsaken, and despised: What shall I say, my big-swolne heart will breake with thy presence; shine eie poysons my eie like the Cockatrice, I pray thee depart and leaue me. Nay, why stirrest thou our Shame, and our debts, make vs euer abandon company; and who more laden with both then thy selfe? O let them carry thee, where not so much as eccho may be acquainted with thee.

During all this speech, the courtly inconstant *Diasaffar*, not, as if hee had seene the deformednesse of *Medusa*, but, as if all the beauties of heauen and earth had bene gathered together in one face, and that made onely his obiekt: stood like a Marble statue, stiffe, staring, and vnmou'd; now he imagines her fairer then she was, (though no excellency was able to adde to her perfection) onely her grieved bashfulnesse in blushes made the roses of her cheekes a little more glorious; and her displeased

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anger, accompanied with palenesse, made her lillies seeme whiter then Nature would imitate: Now his amzeement cals his heart a recreant, and vowes, but in her, there is no delight nor felicity; faine would he speake, but shame keepes him tongue-tide; faine would he find excuse, but truth stands a witnesse against him; faine would he beg mercy, but dispaire keepes an account of his merits: To bee brieft, in her countenance he beholds so much glorious indignation, that but by his death, onely, he can yeeld her no satisfaction: Yet in the end, beholding her ready to depart, desirous to let her know his grieve, for his ingratitude, he staies her by her garments, and falling to the earth, vpon his knees, hee said.

Thou best of the best of diuine creatures, O be gracious to my last of miseries, vouchsafe me a moment in thy memory, and howsoeuer my falshood and vnworthinesse hath disfigured my fortunes, yet let the suddainenesse of my death be a mitigation, though no satisfaction; belecue it, these teares shall neuer cease, till they haue gal'd me to the bone, and bred cankerous vlcers to consume me; nor shall my sighes haue easy passage from my heart, till hauing wasted my bloud, they split it in many peeces; yet before I perish thus strangely, pardon, ô pardon, I beseech thee, this first offence that euer I committed against loue, vertue, or thee; be like the Gods in quality as in beauty, so shall mercy euer be predominant in thee; see, Lady, these hands I lift to heauen and you, which with weakenesse, that issues from my shame, feebly fall backe againe; if you please

please to prolong the torment of your displeasure, I yeeld to the sharpenesse of your sentence, and when dispaire hath banisht pittie all mediation, my willing death shall publish my recantation; and as hee was thus speaking, she violently drew her garments from him, and with a countenance, which might giue him knowledge she was more and more offended, she said.

For euer may that enchanting engine of thy speech be dumbe when it should plead for pittie; and whensoever myne eares shall receiue that sound, let them loose the sence of all sounds whatsoever. And this said, away she went from his presence, like a Westerne gale kissing the cheekes of the spring-tides flowers, leauing the Sheeheard euen distraught with discontentment, and the Nymph *Ethere* to repaire those disorders which this Strata-geme had bred in my Cell.

When the two-fold louing *Darastan* saw the Princesse was vanisht beyond the leuell of his eies, and that the truth of his iudgement had taken a perfit suruey of her perfections: (for we seldome misse good things till we haue lost them) his loue so doubled and encreased, that where before, in the blisse of his enioyment, his affection burnt in a milde temper, now it rages in an vnplacable flame, and is borne with such violence, that nothing accompanies his thoughts but sorrow, melancholy, and desperation. Now iealousy gets a seate in his braine, and makes him contriue a thousand projects to preuent *Thirsis* from aspiring to his wishes; now he will die to satisfie her in the power where with her displeasure

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sure doth governe him; and then againe, he will live to make amends for his errour, by some noble and worthy service: thus variously carried vpon the Ocean of his distempered thoughts, with armes folded, heart sighing, and eies dropping, hee takes his way towards his Cabinet, at euery step cursing his fortune, and accusing the Nymph *Ethera's* counsell, as the ground of his vtter confusion; but he had not gone farre in his way, before he might behold the Nymph *Aphelia*, comming to encounter him; which apprehension when he had receiued, he presently forsakes his direct path, and turnes into a way, which to her way was most contrary; she (not imagining the notice he had taken) crosses his path, and had almost attain'd an encounter, but he instantly hunts another way, and so, like two running in a maze two contrary waies, they shunne and pursue, and being neereft, are furthest asunder; which needlesse and impertinent winding when the Nymph perceiued, and knew he had both beheld her person, and taken notice of her desire; yet like a wanton fire fled still from her presence, with a minde, easily apted to take any impression of ieaousy, she stands still, and giues way to his fancy, of which her troubled minde makes diuers constructions; her feare shoves her many strange beauties of which he might be enchanted; her seuerer iudgement calls to her consideration youths wanton vnstaydnesse, and reuoltes in affection; onely reason, which is euer the sworne friend to vertue, perswades her that against reason goodnesse will neuer runne into any disgracefull errour, and that this strangenesse in behauiour, might spring from
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Of the English Arcadia. 9

the affaires of profite, and not from the coldnesse of affection; and with this imagination, being content to be satisfied with an insufficient satisfaction, she returns to her Cell; where it was hard to iudge, whether Iealousy, or Wisedome, had greater sway in her meditations.

By this time, the night had clos'd vp the eie of the day, at what time, the Nymph *Espera* hauing attir'd me in the forme she first found me, made her returne to the lodge of the Princeesse; into whose presence when she was arriued, she found her so much ouer-come with all the torments of a troubled imagination; and so much pleased to yeeld to the worst euill that griefe or affliction would impose vpon her, as the Nymph infinitely repented the good she had done, seeing the accidents so euill which depended on the same; yet before she could open her mouth, either to comfort, or excuse, the Princeesse said.

O *Espera*, he is false, indeed hee is false, nay hee is false beyond all the degrees of falshood, and then her gentle heart sent forth a volly of sighes, the least of which had bene able to batter the life of a much stronger constitution; but the subtile Nymph *Espera* hauing called all her best of knowledges together, and finding a little detestation planted in the Princeesse heart, to which she was most willing to giue a roote of perpetuall continuance, with well ordered words, she thus said vnto her.

Madam, though affection be said to haue but one eie, which is euer applied to the obie& of his vertuous desire; yet is that eie so to be gouerned by the discretion of an vncontrouleable wisedome, that

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neither dishonour nor disparagement haue any dependance in our wils election; for if our passions shall transport vs not onely to loose our native freedome (a Jewell, for which the *Romanes* would giue their liues most freely) but also annex to that losse, a certaine incertainery of any felicity to accompany our liues. What madnesse shall remaine in our monuments? And what scorné shall dwell on our vn-followed examples? chiefly where either fate, time, or iudgement, hath discovered the mischeife, hanging in *Dionysius* haire ouer vs: This, deere Lady, I speake to you, who knowing the worst of euils which can annoy your fortunes, haue the large liberty of free will to cleere any cloud which can oppose your sun-shine: You know *Diatassan* is false and inconstant, *Thirsis* true and immouable; *Diatassan* hath his fancy clad in all colours, *Thirsis* faith hath but one roabe, and it is so purely white that it cannot be sullied; *Diatassan* loues onely himselfe and his owne delights, *Thirsis* none but *Melidora*, and her most renowned vertues; to conclide, *Diatassan* hath a seruice for euery seuerall beauty, *Thirsis* owes homage to none but one singular rarenesse. Now Madame, if this diuersity of goodnesse be betweene these persones, why should not an equall diuersity in fortunes follow their aduancements? It is things of like nature and quality which euer do best co-here and agree together; neuer shall wee see contraries in one subiect, then to spoid the imputations which in him you behold to be most hateful, embrace the vertues of the other which are admired of all creatures: But you will say every character

Of the English Arcadia. 10

rafter in *Diatassan* both his outward and inward behaviours presents the figures of a noble descent: and what staine is there in *Thirsis*, which shoves him not to be much more heroicall? Hee is a stranger in our walkes (though of longer continuance) as well as the other, and may, for any thing we can gaine say, draw his linage from the height of Deity; then sith they be both incertaine, why should not our opinions haue a charitable construction? as for the vertues of their mindes they hold no comparison, for *Diatassan* speaking much, oft marres it with curiosity; *Thirsis* speech, being euer confin'd to necessity, enchants his auditors with the admiration of his wisdom: as for their active vertues, either in games of force or mastery, or in sports of pleasure and activity, I need not say which is best, for there was neuer equality in their doings; It then our wils do will things euer which are accounted best, and our natures apt to boast any thing which is most pretious; then (good Madam) cast not away the smal, round, orient Pearle, and preserve the shell, because it shines, and is much the larger. I pray thee, (said the Princeesse, interrupting her discourse) for patience sake, make an end of thy bitternesse, thou dost but adde a drop of oile to an vnquenchable fire; I am resolu'd, and my vowes are gone vp to heaven, so that when mine eies shall vouchsafe him the imagination of a fauour, let them loose their seeing; and when my heart shall consent to any thing but a charitable pity of his misfortunes, may it be as barren of good thoughts, as he is of loyalty.

O but (said the Nymph) shall *Thirsis* receive any

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merite, for his long endurances? Alas (said the Princess) thou dost aske me vnreconcilable questions, I may as wel giue thee solution what counsels are held in the Parliament of the Gods, as tell thee what mitigation shall come to his sorrow. Why Madame (said the Nymph) haue you not free-will? Yes (said *Melidora*) to thinke, but not to publish my thoughts; for sooner shall a thousand deaths, with a thousand seuerall torments, bring me to a disgracefull monument, then I wil either to the world discouer so much weakenesse as to change in a moment; or to make election of him, whom with such violence I haue so many yeares dispised; I will not brand my faith with that oblique, to possesse it with two obiects in one season, nor giue enuy that aduantage to imagine that mine alteration sprung from mine own ends; besides, my former scornes haue settled so much dispaire in the heart of *Thirsis*, that except I should grow neerely familiar with impudence, and my selfe discouer what my selfe would haue closest conceal'd; it is impossible that he should, once more, dare to attempt mee with the tender of his seruice. True Madame (quoth the Nymph) both this, and all the rest of your most worthy considerations, are excellent and vnrefellable; honour, like a bold champion, maintaining them against all Art, wit, or inchanting-oratory; yet Madame vnder the patience of your better resolutions, I can, from my braine, deliuer such a Stratageme, that you shall, by the hand of fate, be freed from the opportunities of *Diatassan* without any publicke shew of your owne distemperance, and enioy the seruice of *Thirsis* by a seeming constraint, against

against any desire or wish of your creation. The Princess at these words, being drawne into a litle admire; yet, through her former acquaintance with her wisdom, in things of like nature; apted by an easie impression to giue beliefe to her protestation, with a negligent earnestnesse, she intreated her to discouer the device; giuing assurāce, that if neither her honor, place, nor modesty might by the seuerity of iudgement be rackt to imputation, that she would giue full way and assistance to the vttermoſt of her proiect.

Then Madame (quoth the Nymph) it is not vnknowne to your selfe, to vs, to *Tempe*; nay, to all *Thesalie*, that no Sheepeheard, Nymph, Satyr, or Fairy, for swiftnesse of foot, and true Art in each seuerall chase, for perfect skill in darting, and nimble vse of the Bow, is able to compare with your greatnesse; *Diana*, as it were, hauing giuen you her quiuier, and *Apollo* his bow, with which he triumphed ouer *Python*: onely *Thirsis* alone excepted, who in priuate exercise (though not in publique triumph) hath euer gone beyond you in those noble maisteries. Your excellence therefore shall cause it to be proclaimed through all *Tempe*, that in honour of our great Goddess *Minerua*, you will, vpon the first day of this ensuing moneth, hold a solemne and most glorious festiuall; in which day you will haue the Tyger lodged and chased by all the Sheepeheards, Forresters, and Groomes belonging to these Launds; and if any creature can either ouer-run you in the chase, or strike his dart in the Tyger before yours be fastened in his skin; he shall, for the glory of his conquest, enioy you for his perpetuall Miltresse; and you him,

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for an eternall seruant: And to stirre vp vertue (which many times sleeps in obscure creatures) you shall propose diuers other prizes to be bestowed of the best deseruers, that no merit may go vn-satisfied.

When the Princeesse had heard this deuice, and with a certaine silent amazement pondered in her consideration, the best and worst that might be deriued from the inuention, taking a full knowledge of the drift to which all the Nymphes perswasions tended, which was no way different from the aime of her owne most priuate wishes, with a well-setled demurenesse, which seemed to oppose what shee had propounded, she gaue her this answer; If I had nothing (deere *Ethere*) to respect more then my person (which now is growne vnto it selfe of most vile estimation) I could then bee contented to embrace and prosecute thy counsell, and sell my selfe to a publique Mart, in hope that no man would esteeme me a Jewell worth the cheapning. But when mine honour (which hitherto I haue not blotted with any thing) appeares vnto me attended with modesty and reputation; then nothing can beare a more deformed linage, then this seeming vnwilling, yet most wilfull, giuing my selfe into the hands of fortune: for in it I publish to the world, I care not whom I haue, so one I haue; and that one, if it be the pleasure of Chance, may be full of all vnworthinesse, mine election being grounded neither vpon wisdom, loue, nor vertue, but vpon the nimblenesse of a deliuer foot, and a well-aiming hand, excellencies worthy our praises, but not our persons. Besides, what shall I be that day, more then a Sommer-games prize, a
horses

horses Race-bell, or a Grey-hounds collar? which howsoever wonne with expence, is yet neglected in the keeping. Wee may imagine much in our owne fortitudes, and strengthen our hopes with our Arts, but there is a power aboue, which so disdaineth this temptation, that he often turnes them retrograde to our wils, and makes them our scales to affliction; yet forasmuch as from the schoole of thy wisdom I haue receiued many infinite satisfactions; and haue not seen any, but most prosperous starres to accompany thy proceedings, I am contented wholly to be gouerned by thee, beseeching thee, by the loue thou bearest to immaculate chastity, and as thou wilt answer my disgrace, both before the world, and the great Goddesse whom we serue, so to direct all these aimes and resolutions into which thou intendest to ingage me, that I may, with a golden thrid of vnsoiled honour, passe through any laborynth which in my fortunes course shall oppose me: For be assured, whensoever I shall finde any imaginary scandall to intrude on my vertue, it shall be the last hower of my breath and continuance. And here she paused, with an earnest fix vpon the eyes of the Nymph, who taking her by the delicate hand, and kissing it, intreated her highnesse to be confident in her carefulnesse, vowing vpon herselfe a death most violent, when any of her proiects should hazard her disparagement; and from these protestations it was concluded, that the proclamation in selfe-same-forme as she had formerly deliuered it, should forth-with bee proclaimed through all *Tempe*; and likewise sent in- to *Arcadia*, with safe conduct to all Shepheards, and Forresters

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Forresters which would try their fortunes ; but with great penalties of strange deaths to any that should appeare and be found of better ranke or quality.

And this was no sooner resolved, but it was put in execution by the iolly Nymph ; who hauing commission from the Princeesse, made euery seuerall Officer, both Sheeheard and Woodman, in their seuerall walkes, proclaime the same with great state & solemnity ; so that there was not an eare in *Tempe*, which had not receiued the sound thereof : onely *Diatassan*, whom care and shame, or a carefull shamefastnesse, had all this while imprisoned in his Cabinet, where he lay tormenting and afflicting himselfe with all the calamities of a disturbed and a perplexed minde, receiued this newes, but by an incertaine secundary report, and that with such imperfect and contrary relations, as the truth thereof could finde no serled place in his vnderstanding : so that desirous to know what rumour said euery one knew, he rises from his wearied couch (which he had pressed as much with his woes as his owne burden) and walkes forth with steppes heauy and slow (surable to his sad soule) into the next neighbouring fields, and there, with much search, at last he found out his onely best of friends, the discreet yong Sheeheard *Melissus*, one in whose bosome he had euer inclosed the richest secrets of his loue ; and in whose counsels he had found such sweet contentment, being euer directionous to prosperous fortunes, that no commerce was so pretious or welcome vnto him, as the enioyment of his company.

As soone as they were met together, and had discharged

charged vpon each other, whole vollies of loue, in most respectiue complements, their caressings being mixed with many embracements, in the end *Diatassan* enquired of *Melio* the tenor of those proclamations which in a doubtfull maner had but as yet touched his eares; and *Melio* from poynt to point declared the whole substance of the same, relating the solemnity of the ceremonies in the performance thereof, and the seuerity of euery Officers charge not to neglect or foreflow his best diligence in the publication thereof. Then *Diatassan* demanded, if this were done by the consent of the Princesse, and he was answered, that all things were performed by her most especiall commission. Then he enquired who should be iudge if any doubtfull controuerisie should arise; and the Sheeheard told him onely the faire Nymph *Aphelia*.

Thus when he had receiued euery certainty and circumstance, and had with his disturbed thoughts drawn into a serious consideration the ends of these vnaccustomed proiects; his heart, as if it would haue split in sunder, began to ouer-grow his dwelling-place; and had not many throbbing sighes, vttered with huge painfulnessse, a little abated the swelling, he had there falne downe dead at his amazed friends foot. But tyrannous sorrow, vnwilling he should so soone shake hands with his misery, being Mistres of all his sences, made them extend their powers, and bring back reason and remembrance to their former mansions, whilst the sheeheard, with armes crossed, and fould about his bosome, said to his friend; *Hamelio* ! I haue already numbred all my dayes of delight,

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light, and now see nothing but sorrow and calamity before me, with whom I must walke to an early, and despised graue; and it is good reason I do so, sith I am a wretch, whom all vertue and goodnesse hath forsaken.

Melio, amazed to heare these words proceeding frō him, whom he had euer taken to be Fortunes chiefest Minion, said; Doth not too great aboundance of happinesse (my deere Sheeheard) make thee complaine of pouerty in blessednesse? If it do, beware; for thou mayst by such ingratitude, draw vpon thee the displeasure of the Gods; chiefly when they see their great fauours vnthankfully neglected: What canst thou wish which thou doest not enioy? Thou hast fruitfull walkes, couered with more fruitfull Cattell, whose increase and profit makes thee liue more in the rich mans enuy, then need. Thou hast the loue of thy neighbours, and admiration of strangers: Thou hast no want, if not in an immeasurable wish; nor no store which may make ambition lay plots for thy ouerthrow: aboue all, and which is such a superlatiue height aboue all happinesse, thou hast the only grace and fauour of the most great, most vertuous, and most admired Princeesse of the world.

O say not so (said *Diatasfan*) but say I am despised, forlorne, and in the highest measure disdained of the onely best, and most compleatest in perfection, that euer Nature brought forth, or the earth inioyeth. Ha my *Melio*! when hath thy iudgment (which was my Tutor to all happinesse) been so darke in its vnderstanding, that it should say, it doth not behold the brightnesse of sun-shine? Alasse (deere friend)

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my cloudy sorrowes do behold the drift of the Princeſſe in her ſerious proclamation; to me it is known, (though to others, peraduenture, concealed) that of all the Shepheards either in *Tempe*, or in *Arcadia*, there is none, either for lightneſſe of foot, or ſkilfull hand in deliuering her dart, able to compare with the Princeſſe, *Thirſis* onely excepted; who in many priuate tryals I haue ſeene rarely exceed her: ſo that in as much as once for my ſake ſhe did diſpiſe him, now for my diſgrace, ſhe will, out of a will, ſeeming moſt vnwilling, onely entertaine him.

If that (quoth *Melio*) be the end of her ſtratagem, ſhe will finde herſelfe infinitely deceiued in her purpoſe: For *Thirſis* (alacke for pittie) is faſt enough, and neither can come to try his fortunes in her Conqueſt, nor giue the leaſt blow of deſpaire to thy wiſhes.

Alaſſe! (ſaid *Diaſſan*) what fortune is befallne to that good ſwaine? Why, haue you not heard (ſaid *Melio*) of *Myſantropos* the great Magitian? he that in the vale, which for his ſake is entituled Miſerable, hath erected an enchanted houſe of an immeaſurable circumference, in which he holds in priſon, with torments moſt vnſpeakeable, all that euer ſet their feet within his charmes, eſpecially louers, whoſe howling lamentations hee vowes to exceed all muſicke whatſoeuer.

Yes (ſaid *Diaſſan*) I haue heard of him oft, and haue from a farre beheld his tyrannous manſion. But what of him (good Shepheard) I pray thee?

Why this (ſaid *Melio*) As the poore afflicted, and moſt miſerable *Thirſis* went wandring vp & downe

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the woods, casting forth vnto the ecchoing rockes, the grievous accents of vnsupportable calamities, struing to make insensible things sensible of his anguish, with a carelesse discending from a care too carefully employed, and forgetting all things but his woes, which were euer awake in his bosome, all vnwares he fell within the vnloosable bonds of the Magicians most diuellish coniurations, & now remains a slaue to those torments, which we may imagin, but not comprehend in the compasse of any imagination, to the generall grieve of all swaines, and the vtter subuersion of all pastorall delights whatsoever.

Yet (said *Diatassan*) doth not his imprisonment giue my hopes any comfort; for sith none but he alone can win her, none but he alone shall triumph in her victory.

Yes (said *Melio*) Fortunes wheele hath many ioints, and euery ioint hath a seuerall winding; therefore this once let thy will be directed by my counsell; I know the insufferable and vnspeakeable torments which the euer-to-be-pittied-*Thirsis* indureth, are so much beyond the strength of mans sufferance, that the onely way to binde him to thee in a chaine of eternall & euerlasting friendship, and to make his seruice a dutifull tribute to thy pleasure, is to procure him new liberty, and to shake his heart-root sorrows from his macerated bosome.

O my *Melio* (said *Diatassan*) didst thou not heare the late mischance of infortunate *Melibeus*, who going the other day to cary fodder to his flocks, whō hunger had almost starued, as the carefull sheepeheard began with his foot to rake away the snow, that hee might,
with

with lesse losse, lay their food on the earth, he chanst to find a snake halfe dead, & halfe alive; at which, the tender-harted shepheard being assailed with much pitty, to behold the gasps which the griued creature gaue, being by the violence of the cold brought to the last moment of destruction, he took it vp, & with his warme hand put it into his warmer bosome, thence brought it home, and with gentle strokings gently bath'd it before the fire; but when the warmth had thaw'd the frosty sence of the sicke creature, and brought backe that life which was almost vtterly fled for euer; the ingratefull Snake forgetfull of all goodnesse, how carefully soeuer bestowed, stung the poore Shepheard as he play'd with it; euen so, if by mine industry I should giue new life and liberty to the desolate *Thirsis*, I feare, that loue would bring that forgetfulnesse into his minde, which would soone bring a subuersion to me and my fortunes.

Fie, (said *Melio*) how doth feare sully thy most generous and noble nature, making thee ialous of the most compleate goodnesse, li tell thee, *Thirsis*, stood a thousand deaths before him, would cast himselfe head-long amongst them, ere his thankefull nature should be blemisht with ingratitude; hee is the modell on which Nature looks when shee makes any thing excellent, but not being able to giue euery part his perfection; for anger, she throwes her works rudely into the world, whence it comes, that many haue perticular good qualities, but none compleate to bee compared with *Thirsis*, Therefore, let my knowledge of his vertue bee thy fortresse against suspicion.

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Then (said *Diatassan*) what shall I do when I haue deliuered him from the danger of his bondage?

Thou shalt (replied the Shepheard) with all the priuacy that night or wisedome can containe, conuey him home to thine owne Cabinet, and there containe him with all care and contentment till the day of triumph, at which time, thou shalt adorne him in all thine owne furniture, and according to thy custome arme him in these light peeces, which thou hast vsually worne in the like masteries, wherby his face being concealed, none shall bee able to accuse his policy; which done, thou shalt keepe close, and send him forth as thy person, fame hauing formerly blaz'd to the world, that the loyalty of thy loue hath moued thee that day to try thy fortune with the Princeesse. Now when *Thirsis* hath accomplit all that thou canst wish, and brauely, vnder thy shadow, made himselfe most victorious, he shall returne againe to thy lodge, and possessing thee with thy owne habite, thou shalt come forth, and challenge the benefit of the Proclamation. *Diatassan* hearing this deuise (which bred infinite contentment in his minde) was, notwithstanding, so fearefully doubtfull of euery feare which might bee annexed to the danger of these passages; that once more hee demanded of his friend, if hee could, by any possibility, bee perswaded that *Thirsis* would proue iust in this action; who againe, with many violent reiterations gaue him assurance that *Thirsis* hate was as great to ingratitude as vnto damnation: But then *Diatassan* told him, how deerely *Thirsis* loued the Princeesse, the violence of which affection
he

hee fear'd, would breake all the lawes of nature, friendship, vowes, or gratefulnesse. *Melio* halfe angry to see the strength of his infidelity, told him that he must either belecue, or let his mis-beliefe beare him to ruine, for (quoth he) you must either win her by him, or by your owne vertue; in your selfe there is no hope, in him there is certaine assurance; then, sith your owne will must make your owne choice, do what you list, for I shall be pleased with any election.

Diatassan, loath to giue distast to him, whose aduise had euer directed him in his best actions, after many excuses for the doubtfulnesse of his beliefe, with assurance to pursue, with all earnestnesse, the vtermost of his directions; besought him to instruct him by what meanes he might compasse the liberty of the most desolate shepheard.

To which *Melio* replying, demanded of him, if he knew not *Elpino* the most famous musycall shepheard? And he answered him, that he knew him well: Why then (said *Melio*) Know that *Titerus*, the great Mayster of all Pastorall Melody; who amongst the cunning Shepheards was made euen diuine for his knowledges, hauing taken more instructions from *Apollo* then the God of Shepheards, he, when he died, gaue his pipe vnto *Elpino*, whom with much tendernes he loued aboue all the Swaines in *Arcadia*, and taking his leaue of him, before death had made him take his last leaue of the world; he with painefull care taught him all the worthy secrets which belonged thereunto, instructing his fingers diuers waies how to touch it for diuers vertuous purposes; amongst

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amongst the rest, he told the Sheeheard, how that Pipe was giuen vnto him by the great God *Pan*, and was composed of that Reede, into which faire *Syrinx* (whom he loued) was by his Diety conuerted, whence it springs, that it doth, and shall for euer retaine this vertue; By the onely sounding thereof the force of all magicke and inchantment shall cease, the gates of hell it is able to vnloose, and will make that rocke dance in the hands of destiny; by this alone (quoth he) I haue deliuered many distressed Sheeheardes from the tyrannous inquisition-house of the neuer satisfied *Myrsantropos*, Now then my Sheeheard, seeke out *Elpyno*, and by thy suite, and thankfull offertories procure him to worke this euer to be praised enlargement.

Diatassan gaue him a world of thanks for his counsels, and then kissing his cheeke, he assured him that hee would put the hazard of all his fortunes vpon the hope of *Thirsis* vertue; and so they departed, *Melio* to his Flockes, whom the calme warme weather made to straggle on the mountaines, and *Diatassan* to seeke out *Elpyno*, from whom he had hope to compasse the first part of his wishes.

Rumour, which like a Citty watch-bell, is euer ringing vpon the least occasion, had by this time sounded through all *Tempe* the alarum of *Thirsis* misfortune; so that the repetition thereof coming to the eares of the Princesse, she beganne to entertaine a new griefe more sharpe and peircing then any where-with shee had bene formerly acquainted, for till now, she neuer would suffer her heart to know how excellent and perfite he was in euery goodnesse.

This

This griefe, when she saw it would perforce conquer her best temperance; with all secrefye she issues from her Lodge, and went vnto the Cell of the Nymph *Ethera*, whom she found busily employed about the affaires of the day triumphant; and making her desist from her labour, after many sighes, which blew vp some showers of small teares, she reported vnto her the most miserable misfortune and lamentable mischance, which was befallne the poore starre-croft *Thirsis*, in such large and ample manner as her eares had formerly receiued it, saying.

O my *Ethera*, how is there now any hope left, either to bring thy purposes to passe, or to grant to my minde any honourable satisfaction? What end now will issue of thine inuention, more then an airy nothing? Mine honour lying prostitute to the hazard of euery vnworthy destiny, whilst vertue it selfe liues in bondage vnder the tyrannous hand of euer-liuing-torments.

Ethera taking into her eares this strange sound of *Thirsis* misery, whose despaire brought a generall despaire to al her purposes whatsoeuer; was so amazedly stricken with a silent wonder, and so oppressed with griefe to behold the preuention of her vertuous designs, that her senses, ready to forsake the seate of her vnderstanding, had almost made her fall downe in a swoond, at the foote of the Princessse; but consideration, strengthened by wisedome, calling them backe to their true offices, and instructing her mind that the example of her griefe, might bring to the Princessse, a despaire, troublesomely vnmoueable, with a countenance much contrary to her thoughts,

The second part of the first Booke

and smiling, when the teares were ready to leape from her eyes, she said.

Madam, the bond of charity, which is the rule that swayeth euery worthy minde vnto pittie; if there were no other tie to make me commiserate his fortunes, is sufficient to stir in me a grieve some-what more potent then euery ordinary distemperature, and so much the rather in that I know the afflictions which he endureth (vnder that monster of liuing creatures, the neuer-enough-tormenting *Mysantropos*) are greater then may passe vnder the title of greatest calamity; yet, that this should either bring despaire to our present action, or make me repent my purpose, into which I haue with all willingnesse imbarcked my reputation, there is neither reason to imagine, nor wisdom to defend; for this most haplesse misadventure, shall bring better garments to our designe, and strengthen our desire with that assurance, which your former disdain, and his obedient carefulnesse might else haue made doubtfull.

Thou hast a minde (said the Princeesse) like the *Lernian* monsters heads, for when thou hast one hope taken from thee, their springs two better in the place to defend thy vndertakings; yet, I pray thee beware of this *Hercules*, despaire, least in the end hee make our ruine his conquest.

Fear not, Madam, (said the Nymph) for if your confidence will but suite with my care, no occurrent shall go amisse which is any thing allyed to the proiect wee follow; And therefore briefly thus, you shall giue liberty to the distressed Swaine, and in despite of hell, and the snares of entrangling night-

night-spels, you shall deliuer him from that wretchednes, which euen wretchednes it selfe, is not able to imitate; A worke, wherein you shall not onely gaine from men an honourable commendations, but also pay that great debt of thankfulnessse with a large interest, which whilst it is vnsatisfied cloaths you with an neglect, much like to ingratitude; For Lady, he once, not onely saued your life, but your honour, a Jewell, whose losse no breath can counteruaile.

I vnderstand your desire (said *Melidora*,) but I vnderstand not the meanes to effect it; for it sufficeth not to say, thus I shall do, but thus I must do. And then the Nymph deliuered to her, at large, the manner how to procure his liberty, inciting her to go to the Temple of *Minerva*, where she should finde the worthy Nymph *Nerina*, whose office was to beare the holy Speare of the martiall Goddesse, being a virgine of such exquisite perfection, that the Goddesse *Pallas* had giuen vnto her more rare giftes then to all other Nymphs attending her Diety, amongst which she had the power of vnloosing charmes, and breaking insunder the strongest linkes, where-with the Art of Magicke had power to bind any creature. To this Nymph therefore, with all speed, the Princessse (attended onely by the Nymph *Ethera*) made her repaire; and finding her reposing in an arbor of Eglantine, adioyning to the wals of the Temple (hauing newly finished the ceremonies of the Goddesse) with a sober and demure looke, which did rather figure grauity then anguish, the Princessse thus spake vnto her.

The second Part of the first Booke

Most excellent and diuine hand-maid to our great Goddesse, to whom vertue hath not onely giuen an especiall prerogatiue, to make thee admired aboue all thy companions, but also settled thy renowne so deeply in the booke of memory, that when time shall loose both his sythe & authority, yet the knowledge of thy goodnesse shall flourish most rarely; vouchsafe, I beseech thee, from that mercy which thou hast euer extended to miserable creatures, to grant me a request, which howsoeuer it may beget thy trouble, yet shall it make thy name to bee more and more worthily adored.

Nerina, noting the earnestnesse of the Princessse, whom shee had neuer before knowne acquainted with like solicitings, entreated her Highnesse to discharge from her brest the weight of her desire, and shee would assure her, that what vertue soeuer remained in her power, should both bee commanded and employed by her; then, said the Princessse.

Most sacred Maide, it is not vnknowne vnto all *Theffaly*, and much more vnto *Tempe*, and these holy walkes; that when the cruell and blasphemous *Demagoras*, (the onely prophaner of our Rites, and disturber of the quietnesse we should possesse) had with a tyrannous polluted hand ceazd on my person, with an entent to make it a prey both for his lust and fury, mine honour glutting the one, and my life the other, euen in that instant, when there was nothing but dispaire betweene me & my confusion, the Noble-minded *Thirsis*, with an a&tiue resolution, far beyond his birth and profession; not, onely deliuered mee from
shame

shame and danger, or the dangerous shame of a foule stayned destruction; but also brought mee to that safety, which gaue assurance to my minde, that all mine euils were banished from me: this benefite, as yet, I haue requited with nothing but disdain and disacknowledging strangeness; merits as much contrary to his deserts, as my neglect was contrary to a thankfull nature; which want, Fortune pitying in me, she hath now administred an occasion, whereby I may satisfie my great debt, and giue vnto the world a better satisfaction; for *Thirsis* is now a tormented prisoner in the enchanted Castle of the most cruell *Myfantropos*; from whence, if by thy meanes, I may procure his liberty, thou shalt not only binde me in euerlasting loue-knots to be thy perpetuall admirer, but for euer possesse me as thine owne purchast creature.

The Nymph drawing into her consideration both the reasonableness and worthinesse of *Melidora's* intreaty, made her this reply; Madame, there cannot be a more vertuous action, then the gratefull requitall of those benefites by which our liues and honors are preserued: nor can deformity couer our memories with a more viler sepulcher then the neglect of that duty we owe to our benefactors; And hence it springs that you desire to restore him from the torments of *Myfantropos*, which freed you from the lust of *Demagoras*. But is your highnesse sure he is within that den of the vnmercifull Magitian?

Am I sure (said the Princesse?) Alasse for comfort? I am much too sure: for diuers of the discreetest Shepheards of our walkes being set vpon the

The second part of the first Booke

tops of the mountaines, from whose aspiring heads they might behold the least secret obscurity in all the vallyes, saw how the forlorne and selfe-neglecting Sheeheard, wandred all carelesse vp and downe, neither fearing the sauage cruelty of deuouring beasts, nor the hidden dangers which might lurke in those most vnhaunted pathes of desolation: In the end, when hee drew neere to the enchanted valley, whose verdure and counterfeit spring is able to entice a sence of the best iudgement, with shouts, clamours, and exclamations they gaue him warning of the peril into which he was falling, through the force of his melancholy: but he, like a constant Sheeheard, whose life-bloud ran not within his owne veines, and the Organ of whose motion was ruled by a much higher mouer, neither heard, nor regarded, because in himselfe he had no regard of hearing; and so, to the amazement, and euen madde griefe of all his companions, he fell into that misery, whence, but by your helpe, there is no hope of releasement.

Madame (saide *Nerina*) although I know it is a worke of an impossible creation to execute the rule of the most wholesome counsell, when it struggles against, not onely the knowledge of our outward senses, but also holds a continuall combat both against the hope and maine ends of our affection; yet I beseech you in this designe, let neither your minde be gouerned by your eye, nor let the affection you beare to the comfortlesse Swaine, for the tribute of his former seruices, so much ouer-sway you, that by the directions of an vnskillfull imagination, you
bring

bring both him and your selfe to a certaine destru&tion; but as you loue to enioy the ioyfull end of your purpose, so in all things follow mine instructions, and they shall make you with safety arriue to the blest haue of your wishes.

Melidora being heart-charmed with her perswasions, assured her that she would sooner fall into the hands of death, then faile in the least circumstance of her slighest commandement; vowing that till this needfull businesse were performed, neither her body nor minde should looke with any other eies, then such as had onely their light from her directions.

Vpon this faithfull protestation, *Nerina* tooke the Speare belonging to the great Goddesse *Minerva*, against whose point no prooffe was able to resist and deliuered it into the white hand of the Princessse, commanding her, that neither for life nor death, she should suffer it to depart out of the same; For said the Nymph, it shall preserue you against all those eare-inchanting sounds where-with the Magician will seeme to rauish and distract you, and will so keepe your best knowledges in their accustomed seates, that no forgetfulnesse shall surprise or hinder your determinations: When you are come into the infortunate Valley, the sonne of darkenesse and mischance, accurst *Mysantropos*, will, by his great Nygromanticke skill so change and vnfigure his owne shape, and with such absolute perfection take vpon him all the shapes and dimensions of miserable *Thirsis*, that if you will giue credite to your eies, (who in that moment will be your onely enemies)

your

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your minde will not bee perswaded it can bee any other creature, then the Swayne you onely seeke to preserue, but putting all trust from your eies, and imaginary fancies, how faithfull seruants soeuer they haue bene to you in former times; step boldly vnto that false shape, and with this Speare strike him vnto the heart; and although, I know, that many agonies will stir vp many argumentes in your brest, forbidding you to kill whom you couet onely to saue, yet in that extremity banish all such motions, and the more you are moued to pittie, stirke with so much the more fury; and, beleeeue me, as I am faithfull to the Goddesse whom I serue, so assuredly you shall slay the Monster *Myfantropos*, and set your perplexed Sheeheard at perfite liberty: This is the substance of all your charge, and this is the onely meanes for his deliuerance: good Lady, print it deepe in your memory, bee valiant, carefull, but not too-selfe-trusting.

To this speech, when the Princeesse had engaged her best attention, and had euen printed in her soule each tittle of her charge, she promised the Nymph that al her words should be so carefully obeyed, that, compassing her desire, she would make all the world ring with her praises, and so taking their leaues with many ceremonious embracements, they departed, one from the other, *Nerina* into *Minerva's* Temple, and the Princeesse with the Nymph *Ethera* to seeke out the infortunate Vally; which, like euery euill, was most easie to bee found, for the pathes which lead thereunto, were leuell, smoth, soft, and full of all manner of eie-delightfulnesse; The way, though
much

much troden, was euer greene, being bordered on each side with all manner of flowers, whom Winter neuer toucht, but flourished farre beyond the works of best industry; onely they were full of pollution when they were handled, and noysome to smell to when indiscretion had gathered them: When they were come to the verge of the vnlucky Dale, for they might easily know it by many characters which they had receiued, the Princeesse tooke her leaue of the Nymph *Espera*, (for there was no stepping her vndefended foote into that most certaine place of intollerable danger) yet before the Nymph would suffer her to depart, falling vpon her knees before her, shee most humbly besought her by all those vertuous coniurations which familiar intimacy begetteth in louing hearts; as by the great honor of her vnmatchable virginity, by the pleasure of her Bow, and her imitations of *Diana*, by her delight in the Pastorall life, and by those Eglogs, which, in her discourses, she had oft with great contentment rehearsed; that she would by no meanes forget the instructions of the Nymph, but either with resolution (as firme as her vowes of chastity) execute the vttermost of them, to the least haire, or tittle of their deliniation; or otherwise, if she found any faynting motion, or retractiue humour in her doubtfull spirit, to desist and proceede no further; for, it was, questionlesse, that vpon her least remissenesse there might spring danger to her person.

The Princeesse, willing (had not her will better gouerned her) to haue bene angry with the Nymphs distrust of her resolution, told her, shee should not

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The second part of the first Booke

need to inchant her with any coniuration, for shee was neuer composed of such a weake inconstant humour, as to engage her selfe in so worthy an affaire, and then to let it faile through the feeblenesse of a little self-beleefe, then which, there was nothing more vaine or imperfect.

And so embracing the Nymph, and binding her not to hold a more vnworthy opinion of her discretion, then hitherto her actions had giuen liberty, with a world of vnspeakeable kindnesse participated in each of their complements, they departed the one from the other; the Nymph to her Cell, and the Princeesse into the infortunate Valley: Vpon whose Turfes, she could hardly say, she had well troden; when on euery side, she was inuironed with all the delights that euer the open aire could boast of; the ground whereon shee trod appearing like needleworke, carpets checkered and imbossed with flowers of such various, yet well mixt collours, that Art and Nature seemed to haue bene most especiall friends in that peece of worke-man-ship; The melodious Birds, seated vpon faire Cycamore-trees, (whose shadowy leaues were defences against the Sunne-shine) vttered their tunes with such cheerefull alacrity, that it was impossible for any humane minde to heare them without distraction, the murmuring Brookes playing vpon the pretty Peebles, mixt with golden sand, sent forth such a silent minstrelcy, that the water-Nymphs appeared aboue the bankes, weauing most curious Coronets of Sedge, Poppey, and Water-lillies, where-with they offered to crowne the head of euery wandring-passenger;
by

by the Bankes of the filuer streames lay the Lyon, the Panther, the Wolfe, and the Leopard, all with such a friendly community without any emulation, that it seemed, like the first of Gardens, full of nothing but peace and delightfulnesse; vpon the Meadows trouled the light Hart, the nymble Bucke, and the fleete Roe, which in their coursing, and re-cour-sing so plaid about the Princeesse, that had not her memory bene an excellent Tutor, shee would not haue forborne from throwing the Speare amongst them.

Thus, as shee traced along the path, which lead to the enchanted Castle, wondring at nothing, but that her wonder was no more increased; she came to that wood, wherein the hellish Cittadell was placed, and coueting with more speedy steps to free her selfe from that obscurity, shee might behold many fearefull and hideous obiects, which obseruing the motion of her eies, tooke, as it were, delight to liue euer offending her sight: There might she see Furies tearēs Snakes from their heads, and throwing them at the bosomes of afflicted people; and in another place, woefull louers scourged and tormented with lashes of fire, whose flames could neuer bee extinguished; Now would many-headed-monsters strue to impeach her in her further passage, and then presently would most hideous acclamations seeke to diuert her steps into other corners: But the Princeesse, fortifyed with her confidence in the holy Speare, kept on her way without all amazement, for she saw that whatsoeuer she did see were but illusiue sights, most meerely imaginary and insubstantiall; By this

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time she was gotten through the darke Wood, and was now arriued in a most delicate little plaine, in the midst whereof stood the enchanted house, on whose stately Pinacles and strange Architecture whilst with hungry eies she gazed, she supposed that no Art nor wealth had power to effect a worke of such rarenesse; no Masons but Jewellers, hauing bene worke-men in the same, for neuer was their curious inameled Ingot hung in the haire of faire Ladies, which could present the luster of artificiall perfection, so amply, as the worst, and least-respected part of this building; but she had not gaz'd so long vpon this infermall worke that iudgement could say she had taken a full veiw of the same, when presently her eares were taken vp with such a strange sound of well-mixed musicke, that as if the Spheares had compast her about with their tunes; or the aire had bene nothing but a reporter of the rauishing songs of well pleased Angels, she was so amazedly distraught with delight, that had she bene without her holy defensitiue, she had there perisht in her admiration; many times would she cast her eies about, to see if shee could take knowledge from what Coast that Harmony proceeded, but she perceiued it still to be so generall; that like the Citie of *Thebes*, shee supposed all that earth to haue his foundation vpon Musicke; and as her immaginations were thus talking to her fancies, vpon the suddaine she might see comming towards her the cruell Nygromancer; so like in euery shape, feature, speech, and gesture, to the most miserable *Thirsis*, that no sence, how curious soeuer, was able to distinguish any difference
betweene

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betweene them; he came, as it seemed, led, inchained, and tormented by many sauage Furies, his vn-pitying executioners, who in midst of his vexations seemed scornefully to make themselves partners of his laments.

And now being come so neere, that her eies might iudge the difference betwixt their iniuries and his wordes, she might perceiue that he sung vnto her these Stanza's following; with rear'd vp hands, deiected eies, humble countenance, and all the gestures of a despairefull soule; that pittie, by the assistance of such aide, was able to conquer the most adamantine brest of the cruellest flint-hearted.

*Lady draw neere, O let the golden fire
Which giues so great a glory to your face,
Resolue, in time, the frost of my desire,
And giue me light to put my clouds to chace:
Lady, deere Lady, best Lady pittie mee,
Because I plaine, perish and pine for thee.*

*Like to the Bird which tries her tender plumes,
Before she venture on too great a flight
I follow you, but when my soule presumes
To mount, it fals againe through want of might:
Deere Melidora, worlds-joy, pittie mee,
Because I plaine, perish and dye for thee.*

Euen in the very midst of these Stanza's, and when the words had imperfectly scarce knit them and the sence together, the Princeesse charged her Speare against his brest, and was ready to deliuer that blow

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which might haue giuen an end to her feare; when the counterfeit cruell one, throwing open his armes, as if with greedinesse he would swallow the death she threatned, and there-with-all vsing those actions which any way could stirre commisseration, he not onely made her desist from her threatning; but also moued such arguments to arise in her perplexed brest, that her eie, hauing made her will her slaue, she beginnes to hold strong disputation against all her instructions.

Can it be possible (saied she) that this is not *Thirsis*, whom I see with so much humility stand before me? Can Nature, which hath made all the world so different one from an other, bee growne now so cunning, that he and this should haue but one *Idea*? O it cannot be, neither is it reason that mine eies, which haue euer bene faithfull vnto mee, should, in so vndoubtfull an obiekt, receiue the imputation of distrust: Is there a ligne, a feature, or the smallest crest in all the volume of his countenance which I haue formerly beheld, and cannot now demonstrate? Alas, there is not one, neither is deceit so curious to be so carefull in her counterfeits: The Stales we make to entice, resemble much, but are alike little; for Art hath euer had a grosser hand then Nature; and so in this worke, if it were Sophisticate, there is no question, but the test of a pure iudgement would both decide & discouer it. Foole that I am, whether am I carried? Is this the strength of my resolution, or the faith of my promise? haue I for this encampt my selfe amongst an army of perils, and left all mine honour to grosse *Plabeian* construction? and shall I

now

now stand to dispute, and make Destiny doubtfull: who knowes not, that the eie of all sences, is most deceiuable? witnesse *Ixion*, that in steed of *Iuno* imbrast a Cloud; *Alcmena* for *Amphitriou* fouled *Iupiter Hammon*; and *Dido* in steed of *Ascanius*, plaid with *Cupyd* her destroyer, Shall I then make doubt what this Monster is? I will not, I will not, and heere charging her Speare againe, with a better resolution then before, and being euen ready to deliuer it into his bosome; he with the wofulnesse of his countenance, and the sad actions, where-with in his song he vttered these Stanzaes following, made her againe refraine from the violence of her anger.

*Deere, your unkindnesse kills my my heart,
Yet doth my death not griue my thought,
But being an hour of my smart
By you my murder shall be wrought:
Nor doth my paine so discontent me,
As your owne error doth torment me.*

*O may thy choise most prosperous bee,
When thou shalt yeeld thy power to loue,
And may no chang'd-faith let thee see,
Th' eternall torments which I proue:
Liue happy euer, none more blest,
Though I forlorne, die with vnrest.*

These Stanzaes he deliuered with such an excellent voyce, and so rauishing a gesture of all despairefull actions, that not cruelty it selfe could haue had the power to haue wounded a soule so suppliant to any
torment

The second Part of the first Booke

torment it would please beauty to inflict vpon him; and now the weakenesse of her imagination did so wonderfully transport her beyond all the rules of wholesome counsell, that not content to beleue the falshoods of her eies, shee begets in her selfe diuers reasons and testimonies to approue what soeuer she suggest, saying; that al-be her sight might deceiue her, yet her eares could not, for she was assured that both the voyce and song could proceed from none but onely *Thirsis*, her knowledge being no such stranger, to his words, but that she could easily distinguish his aires from any counterfeite Musicke; and from hence, the strength of her opinion got so large an empire to gouerne ouer, that now she imagines the vertuous *Nerina* (subborned by *Diatassan*) had onely drawne her into this laborinth, that murdering the most faithfull man of the world, there might no more doubts runne betweene him and his wishes; 'Tis so, (said she) alas, 'tis so, vertue hath euer bene hated, and malice cares not in how great an ocean of blood it failes to the designe it desireth, but mine innocent hands shall be free from such massacre, nor shall mine Epytaph be poluted with bloody charraeters; and as she was thus speaking, the Furies beganne rigorously to hale him from her presence; so that now her minde, being all replete with loue and pittie, shee humbly besought them not to retire and carry goodnesse to misery; but euen for pittie sake, which forc't *Pluto* to lament with *Orpheus*, to giue to his last howers some tast of contentment, the progresse of whose life had trauelled through nothing but sorrow and vnsatisfied calamity, But the
more

more she entreated, with the more violence they seemed to dragge him away; the image of *Thirsis* turning his head backe ouer his shoulder vpon her, and lifting vp his hands, in his woes seeming still to respect no affliction but the torment of her disdain; which the more she beheld, the more her pittie encreased, and that pittie brought forth a desire, whose passion was so immoderate, that it was no error to say it was plaine madnesse; and now casting the Speare out of her hand, she runnes after the Furies, and entreates them that she might speake with *Thirsis*, but one word, on little little word, when immediately, the Inchanter, transform'd to the oughnesse of his owne shape, like a deuoring Wolfe o're an innocent Lambe, ceaz'd the distressed Lady, within his vnmercifull embracement, and turning ouer her like an euer-vnsatisfied vulture (for the losse of her Speare, had lost her all safety and comfort) hee said:

Neuer till now, was I rich in my mischiefes, nor hath the tyde of mine euils before risen to a height equall with my wishes; but being now possesse of *Thirsis*, the wonder of men, and *Melidora*, the admiration of woemen, what mischiefe can say it hath dominion ouer more singular people? O I shall grow fat with contentment, to heare their shrikes and lamentations, for their can be no Musicke so pleasing as the moanes of mortall creatures: And as he was thus speaking, with the distressed Lady in his armes, whose fearefull amazement had euen brought her to a sencelesse dumbnesse, hee might behold, appearing out of the Wood, *Diatassan*, and the Sheep-
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heard.

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heard *Elpyno*; at which prospect hee, immediately, hurried the Princesse into his enchanted house, and vowed he would make such provision, that the rest should not be long ere they bore her company; but scarcely had he, with his spels, clos'd vp his Nygromantick gates, when the two Shepheards *Diasassan* and *Elpyno* arrived before the same; on which, when they had, with wondring eies, gaz'd a pretty space, and interuaild that so much euill should bring forth so much excellency, *Diasassan*, in the end, telling *Elpino*, that within the bowels of that gawdy Monument were entombed all the miseries which euer were created, the burthen whereof lay so intolerably heauy vpon the soule of distressed *Thirsis*, as without some speedy rancome, it was impossible hee could continue vnconfounded, and therefore with all earnestnesse besought him to assay the vertue of his Pipe; to which *Elpyno*, more for the loue he bare to *Thirsis*, then for any other obligation whatsoeuer, most willingly consented; and so ordering his Reeds with the touch of a most delicate hand, hee there sounded forth such Musick, that the enchanted house did seeme to dance & caper in the aire, the trembling Pinacles, so fearefully shaking their lofty heads, that they threatned a present ruine to the whole building; and now the enchanted gates flew open of their owne accord; whilst, as being borne away by some whirle-wind, issued forth the Princesse *Melidora*, and passed out of their sights with such a deliuer swiftnesse, that their eies could not giue their hearts certaine intelligence whether it was she or no; yet *Diasassan*, vpon her first appearance, intreated *Elpyno* a little

little to cease his Musické, for if his eies were not too vniust Herralds, he saw the Princeesse *Melidora*, but so soone was she vanisht from the lenell of their iudgements, that they stood in an amazed argument, whether it should be shee, or some illusion in her figure, to entice them from the designe they had vowed to prosecute; But when the doubt of their imagination was ended (for it was but a shadowy passion of short continuance) *Diatassan* againe entreated *Elpyno* to try his cunning, which he did with such curious painefulnesse that had hell it selfe bene in that place, the gates thereof must perforce haue flowne open; and now the Towers, which before did but tremble, began to fall from their foundations, yet before they were seene to touch the ground they vanisht like smoake, and resolved to nothing: During which disorderly ruine, *Thirsis*, like a man carried contrary to his owne powers, came winding and rousing out of the enchanted house, with such an amazed gesture, that *Diatassan* ceaz'd him in his armes before he could imagine he was vnceaz'd of his torments; and after him issued forth diuers others, some flying one way, some another, in such a confused manner of distraction that no eie could sencibly discern, either what were their persons, ranke or conditions.

The damned *Misantropos*, seeing this desolation hurl'd vpon his wickednesse, came forth, and with all the coniurations, speks, and charraeters, which formerly had bound the greatest Kings of deuils to his obedience, he againe assaies if he can either hold from further perishing, or else, at least, repaire the

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misery of his mis-fortunes, but when he saw the more he labour'd, that still to worse end the toile of his labours conuerted, a damnable desperation tooke hold vpon him, and according to the true nature of premeditate and resolued wickednesse, hee entombes himselfe within the ruines of that decayed house, and setting all things which were about him on fire, he there, with many most grieuous exclamations and cursings expired his life into cinders. All this while, *Diatassan* held *Thirsis* in his armes, without respect, or knowledge of what fortune betell the Inchanter, and *Thirsis* on the other side, stood staring in the eies of *Diatassan*, whom he supposed to be some new tormentor, and besought him, in as much as his features and comlinesse of of person did exceed all his former persecutors, not to couet to enlarge the ocean, or seeke to make his afflictions greater, which were so vnbounded, as no imagination, strength, or patience, was able to containe them.

But *Diatassan*, freeing him from his embracement, said; Behold my *Thirsis*, thou art no more a slaue to hellish cruelty, but art freed from thy bonds, and made once more Maister of thine owne person.

At liberty (said *Thirsis*) ô do not delude me with false hope, making the consumption of my ioyes, the infinite redoublers of my most vnspeakeble torments.

Beleeue it (said *Diatassan*) thou art at perfect and secure liberty, I pray thee open thine enchanted eies, and looke vpon mee, I am thy friend, and fellow Sheepeheard, indeed I am *Diatassan*, and dare boldly assure

assure thee, that all illusions and enchantments are utterly banished, and there is not any opposition betwixt thee and thy freedome; Alas, it was to me, and to euery gentle soule, a sorrow insufferable, to heare of the manner of thyne afflictions, and to behold the, not to be exceeded, sorrow which all the Shee-phards in *Tempe* made for thy absence, some breaking their Pipes, and for-swearing all Country Musicke; some tearing their Sonnets, and abiuring all Poesy; one vowes he will neuer more throw either Dart, or Axle-tree; and another protests, he will neuer more runne, either at Basse, or Barly-breake; *Echo* shall hence forth repeate no Carrols but Ellegies, the Water-nymphes shall loose their fountaines and their shadowes; the *Fawnes* shall forgoe the seruice of *Bacchus*, and the *Satyrs* shall neuer more attend vpon drunken *Silenus*: Hence I began to study by what Art or Industry I might procure thine infranchisement, and in the end, by the help of this my fellow Swaine (vnto whose skill the Gods themselues are propitious) I found a meanes to shake of thy fetters, and to make thy foule pryson, like a surfeited stomacke, to cast thee forth into the world, that thy friends might take comfort in thy sociery.

When *Thirsis*, whose eies, by this time, were cleerely opened, and into whose little Kingdomes were againe restored memory, knowledge, and iudgement, with their three faithfull companions, Retention, Truth, and Discretion, saw himselfe deliuered thus minutely, against all expectation, even by him, whom of all men he supposed to be the greatest

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enemy to his happinesse; whose loues being fixed vpon one obiekt, like two Emperours riuals war'd and contended, to bring disgrace to each others actions; when hee saw this generous designe thus nobly performed (Time, hauing not in former times, preserved a president of so great worthinesse) with a soule ten thousand times more thankfull then his deliuerance was carefull; hee embrac't *Diatassan* in his armes, and said.

Thou Mirrour of all noble curtesie, whose excellent charity hath preserved a life, not worthy thy painefulnesse; let mee assure thee, that whatsoeuer thou hast giuen mee is nothing but thine owne riches, neither will I keepe it, or esteeme it for any thing but thine employment; my life, assure thee, shall bee a tribute euer payable, when thou wilt command it; and al-be hitherto it hath beene infinitely neglected by me, henceforth I will prize it at better rate, till it haue done some acceptable seruice for thee.

Diatassan gaue him infinite thanks for the tender of so much affection, but there-with-all acknowledged that no worth or work in him was worthy of such merite; and thus, after diuers and sundry ceremonious embracements on euery side, with a world of thankfulness to the most famous *Elpyno*, *Diatassan* perswaded *Thirsis* that he would be pleased to goe home with him to his Cabinet, and there a while refresh himselfe, till he had smoothed those wrinkles which sorrowfull afflictions had ingrauen vpon him. *Thirsis*, whose very soule was now engaged to the loue of *Diatassan*, holding it a sinne vnremittable to deny

deny whatsoeuer he demanded, consented to his request; and so *Elpyno* sounding his shrill pipe, they began to depart from that vnhalloved valley: but hardly were they moued so farre that their motion might be discerned, when *Elpyno* espyed on the ground the speare belonging to the great Goddesse *Minerva*, which he perfectly knew, and the Nymph to whose charge it was allotted, and so taking it vp, he concluded, that the Nymph whom *Diatassan* supposed to be the Princessse, was onely *Nerina*, by the hand of some euill fate imbarcked in that danger; to whom he said he would re-delieuher her charge, lest the losse thereof might loose her the fauour of the Goddesse: and then setting his pipe againe to his lip, they departed from that vnhalloved ground, and came into their owne walkes; where, because the euening began to put on her worst countenance of darknesse, the two yong shepheards tooke their solemne leaues of the graue *Elpyno*, promising to be euer at his commandement when any occasion should craue their employment; and so they departed to their seuerall homes.

When the silence of the darke night, and the politicke *Diatassans* most cunning knowledge in paths remote, and vnfrequented, had brought sad *Thirsis* vnseene, vn suspected, and vnthought of vnto his Cabiner, after they had a while reposed themselues by a cleere fire, and tasted the countrey fruits of that seasons ripenesse, and made *Leus* swim in their well-spiced Mazers, being now not any but themselues in that little cottage, and the still night lending a gentle care to their discourse, *Diatassan* in the end, brake forth

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forth into these speeches.

Man (my *Thirsis*) in his first creation, was not made for the tillage of the earth, for the inuention of fundamentall lawes, for the ordering of Common-wealthes, nor for the obeying, or being obeyed in the seuerall chaires of much different or distinguished greatnesse; but he was made onely, with a thannfulnesse equall to the blessings hee had receiued, in all his actions and meditations to sound forth the most glorious praise of the most Diuine and onely omnipotent *Alpha*; nothing being so high-prized in his sacred nature, as thankfulness & obedience. Hence, from this great statute (whose forfeiture is no lesse then eternall destruction) is deriued a little bond, or obligation betweene man and man, teaching vs that the duty of thankfulness excelleth all the offices belonging to mans life; the breach whereof is no lesse then damnation to our good names, and a perpetual obloquy left to liue with our memories.

I speake not this (deere *Thirsis*) either to intimate any doubtfulness in the excellency of thy nature, or to stirre thee to any better consideration of thine owne goodnesse then the bent of thine owne will, (euer aimed at the noblest part of perfection) shall by thy reason euer present before thee; but I do it in respect of mine own mis-fortunes, which hath drawn my life so neere to the worst of deathes cruelty, that onely alone, without thine aid and assistance, I am nothing but the most miserablest creature breathing: Therefore if either my loue or deserts, or any other merit in the painefulnesse of my seruice, haue had
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the power to gaine the heavenly Iewel of thy deereſt eſteemed friendſhip: then by them all I beſeech thee, giue me leaue to coniure thy loue; and by thine own remembrance, which is the beſt register of things moſt acceptable to thine eye, vouchſafe to grant me one ſuite, in which thy conſent giueſt me a happy life; but thy denyall a death ſudden, bitter, and moſt diſgracefull.

Thiſis vnable to wade in the ſtill-deepe-ſtreame of the cunning Shepheards cogitations; and whoſe innocent minde, framing her thoughts to her owne likenefſe, was free from deceit or circumuention, told *Diaſſan*, that to him, who had no part left in himſelfe which he accounted his owne, but was all vninerſally giuen ouer to be imploied in any aduerture, how dangerous ſoeuer (ſo it pleaſed his will to guide him thereunto) which might bring him the leaſt contentment; there was no need of this coniuration; and therefore humbly beſought him, from an open and direct breſt, to diſcharge his deſires, aſſuring him, by all the proteſtations of a conſtant faith; nay, that he might annex better beliefe to his vnreuocable vowes, hee ſware by *Melidora's* white hand, by her hopes of honour, and by the holy feſtiuall of her moſt happy marriage, that no action ſhould be ſo ſtrange, no ſtratagem ſo ſecure, nor no danger ſo ineuitable and certaine to breed deſtruction, which he would not, with all willingneſſe, enter into, ſo it might redound but to the leaſt figure of his ſatiſfaction.

I but (ſaid *Diaſſan*) the ſtrangenefſe of the danger is able to diuert ſtrangely your reſolution. Not ſo

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(said *Thirsis*) all-be it can put on vizards more vgly then euer perill was disguised in : for belceue it, who-soeuer feareth danger, must necessarily feare friendship. But (replied *Diatassan*) what if the action bee insupportable ? Then (quoth *Thirsis*) the greater honour attends the conquest, and vertue neuer lo-ueth to wade in a shallow streame.

What (said *Diatassan*) if the mischiefe concerne your selfe more then any other?

Then (said *Thirsis*) shall I haue fewer riuals in mine honour then any other. I beseech thee do not seeke to coward me with these suppositions, or thinke thou canst threaten away from me, any part of my resolution : for I haue vowed, and will neuer repent any part of such vowes, that whatsoever I can do to doe thee seruice, I will do with that cheareful willingnes, that euen in the greatest extremity of my danger, nothing shall appeare which shall daunt my courage.

Diatassan beholding him thus constant, and knowing by ancient experience, how vertuously he was euer addicted; banishing all feare, doubt, or distrust of Apostacy, boldly, and in plaine phrase deliuered vnto him the tenor of the proclamation, which by the voluntary consent of the Princeesse, was not onely sent through all *Tempe*, but euen through all the coastes of *Arcadia* also; assuring vnto any man that could exceed her, either in swiftnes, or in shooting, an eternall possession both of her, and her fauours. Now my *Thirsis* (said *Diatassan*) it is knowne vnto vs all within these launds, especially vnto my selfe, whose neerer intimacy hath made me more familiar with
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your contentions, that not any Sheeheard, Woodman, Satyre, nor Fairy, is able to match her in the excellency of either of those skils (your selfe onely excepted,) whom I haue oft beheld so farre to exceed her, that many times a passion of discontentment, like vnto anger, hath made her say, shee would no more take pleasure in such controuersies. Therefore the fauour which I begge at thy hands (whose true performance may make me the happiest sheeheard liuing) is, that you will be pleased in my garments, disguise, and priuate abilliments (all which are well knowne to the eye of euery Sheeheard) to try the force & vertue of your best art; and vnder my name, as well as my figure, to win the Princeesse for me: an act, which if you be pleased to performe, you shall not onely giue me an ample satisfaction for all my seruices imployed in your deliuerance, but for euer hereafter containe me as your vowed seruant, and most surest obliged creature: If contrariwise you be pleased to grant repulse to my hard, and most painefull demand, doe but giue the least signe of such distaste, and you shall instantly behold his death, whose miserable life was neuer made worthy, but when it was imployed in the worke of your deliuerance.

As soone as *Thirsis* had heard the Sheeheards whole relation, and perceiued that his life was preferred but to confound his life, being compelled by his vowes, to giue away that litle hope which hitherto maintained a weake life, full of all agony, and all the distemperatures, passions, frenzies, and grieved torments which either misery or dispaire could lay

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vpon him, turning himselfe from *Diatassan*, as if on-ly he meant to talke with his consideration in a mat-ter so strange, and neerely concerning the life-long-bitternesse of his euer-lothed life, he lift vp his hands to heauen, and wringing them one within another, he said; *Fortune*, *o Fortune!* thou euer-displeased e-nemy to my rest, when wilt thou glut thy selfe with the huge masse of mine vnspeakeable lamentations, and beholding my miseries, on the highest scale of despaire, vouchsafe by my death, an end to mine o-uer-wrackt calamities? When wilt thou be weary of creating me new disasters? and finde out for thy fu-ry some other subiect, whose greater worthinesse may bring greater renowne to thy cruelty? Me? a-lasse! why me hast thou chosen on whom to dis-charge all the Arrowes of thy vnsatisfied wrath, my life hauing no respect in the world, and so thy re-venge deprived all memory and reputation? Tell mee (thou that art neuer greatest in goodnesse) wherein haue I offended thy Deity? Which of thy Temples haue I euer prophaned? What Altars of thine haue I razed? How many Statues haue I de-faced? When did I extinguish any of thy liuing Fires, or in contempt of thy power, said; There was disproportion in a circular motion? Haue I (at any time) made thy God-head disputable? or raised (by mine heresies) doubtfulnessse amongst thy best followers? Haue my constant torments made mee blasphemous thy name? or say (for all my firme-setled sorrowes, that thou hadst no might in inconstancy? Haue I not (with my best wits) defended thy mutability? and compared it to
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the seasons of the yeere, to the course of mans life, and to the delight of his senses; the first confounded, if any bee wanting; the next imperfect, if by alteration not increased; and the last dull and velleſſe, if not for the distinguishing of sundry obiects: O thou that art most mighty by mens ruines, and the foundation of whose throne standeth on the subuersion of Empires; I beseech thee to bee pleased, that in this last act of my long labour'd Tragedy, I may haue leaue to die, peaceably, and obscurely! Alas! my loue, which was euer accompanied with a seueredisdaine, brought (in comparison of this) to my heart but an vnfelt distemperature; my thraldome with *Mysantropos*, where the torments of hell are presented in their most feeling hidiousnesse, was (being compared with this) but a golden chaine of desired seruitude. Nay, what imagination hath a circumference so large, as to bound within it a misfortune so fatall, and incomprehensibly tyrannous: but indiscreete that I am, whether doth my mad agony transport mee? Haue I not premeditarily sworne, with aduised thoughts, and deliberate considerations, that my life shall not be valewed with the true worth of his deserts, who brought me from an intollerable bondage, and doe I now stammer in my resolution? No, I am confident, and the worst and best, which can way befall mee, is but a death long expected, and now come a little howre before my preparation; my faithfull promise is my vertue, and before that shall suffer my life shall ten thousand times ruine; for I had rather this memory should liue on my graue-stone, that my faith gaue away my life,

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then that my periury had ingratfully gotten mee a goodnesse, which would onely hate me for the vilenesse of my purchase. And, heere, turning himselfe about to *Diatassan*, who all this while stood in a great amazement, troubled with doubtfull thoughts what resolution hee should receiue from his sorrowfull Shepheard, hee deliuered him this answer.

Thou hast (*Diatassan*) by a double bond tyed mee euer vnto thy seruice; first, by releasing mee from the torments of *Mysantropos*; and now, by deliuering mee from the worlds worst iniuries: for thou hast now brought mee a death so certaine and easie, that in one moment all my malignities shall expire, and I shall then sleepe calmly in my graue, that with tempestious blasts and stormes fearefully raging haue had my life euer enuironed; onely bee thou cheerefull and merry, who art the onely delightfull *Nightingall* of the warmest season, and one, whom the onely Goddesse of the world will make the choicest darling of her most deere delight. For this beleue, (Shepheard) as firmly as thou beleuest any worke of Destiny, that the life I vowed to giue thee for my life, I will pay thee in this worke faithfully and truly, two-fold; First, in my conquest, of which, except both Gods and Nature infinitely conspire to crosse mee, I neither despaire nor doubt of; and next, in her, who hauing euer borne my life in her bosome, by giuing her, I shall giue thee not onely my life, but whatsoeuer else in my life was esteemed pretious: And this I will do, as willingly and faithfully, as thou desirest it seriously and carefully: and therefore argue no more the alteration of
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my resolution, neither call to minde mine infortunate loue, but building vpon that integrity, which I haue hitherto preferred spotlesse, with my reputation, rest assured, that I will either purchase thy wish, or else my selfe, for euer, loose the vse of wishing.

At these wordes, *Diatassan* tooke the sad Sheepeheard in his armes, and kissing his cheeke, told him; His noble curtesy should neuer die, but, whilst either time, or memory should liue vpon the earth, so long there should dwell a register of his excellent faith and constancy. And there-with-all he entreated him to cast away all care and griefe, and no more to make sorrow his onely familiar, assuring him that Fortune had many treasures, yet, lockt vp for him; which, doubtlesse, would in the end bring all his desires to that port, at which hee, onely, couered to cast Anchor.

But *Thirsis* replied, My griefes and I, am of so long, and so inseparable familiarity, that it is as easie to take from any Element his predominant quality, as to dis-vnite the league which is combined betwixt vs: and for the enioyment of my desires, they are, alas, so farre remoued from hearing my complaints, that sooner shall wee, and our *Antipodes*, warme vs at one instant with one Sunne-shine, then they euer meete to do me ease in my trouble. But letting my miseries sleepe in my owne brest, I pray thee tell mee, Sheepeheard, when is the triumphant day which must decide this controuersy?

And *Diatassan* told him, the very next morrow insuing; which in as much as it came stealing, fast vpon them, with swift vndiscerned paces, and now the
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night was almost growne to the midde point of her gouernement, faire *Cassiopeia* twinkling her little sparkes in at euery small cranny, hee perswaded the melancholy Sheeheard to betake himselfe to his repose, assuring him that the next morning all things should bee prepared in readinesse, both for his disguise and all other accomplishments needfull in that curious businesse.

Thirsis, gaue him many thanks, and so, for that night, went to his rest; where he rested with so much vnrest, that as if his bed had bene made of thorne, or imboist with needles, hee could find in no part of it either ease, or enticement to slumber, but tossing and rouling to and fro, curssing his fortune which had made him his owne executioner, and accusing Nature that had giuen him perfection, to make all his happinesse most imperfect, hee consumed the weary time with such pittious moanes, and bitterness of anguish, that Barbarisme, it selfe, would haue bene grieued with his lamentations.

But leauing him, in the trouble of his owne passionate thoughtfulnessse, let mee returne to the vertuous Princessse; who, with a grieffe nothing inferiour to the distressed Sheeheard; and with a shame, infinitely superiour to all others bashfulnessse, so spent the caline season of the quiet night, that the faire spangled sky, in lamentable commiseration of her teares and sighings, let fall to the earth many of her cleere lights, to shew that her moanes, onely, depriued her of glory: O, it is vnsearchable, and past reuelation for the tongue of man to tell the depth of her diuersly bewailings; for one while, the vnkindnesse

nesse of *Diatassan*, his apostacy, periury, and inhumanity, ceaz'd to their vse, the whole substance of her thought; then *Thirsis* thraldome, his vertue, constancy, and patient misery, tooke vp the whole compasse of her minde; and lasty, her owne shame, who hauing giuen into her power a full power to worke, both hers, and his happinesse with all powerfulnessse, through a weake womanish distrust, and a ieaousy, full of absurde impossibility, not onely to loose the blisse of that occasion, but with her irresolution to leaue her-selfe in the danger of destruction; these heavy weights of anguish fell so grievously on her troubled soule, that they banisht, not onely sleepe from her wet eies, but all things else, which, in any measure, carried the similitude of his charracter; now shee repents the freedome of her proclamation, and wishes, she could vnwish what her wishes had created.

The Nymph *Ethera* she is ashamed to see, because her very lookes will discouer her pusyllanimity.

The Nymph *Nerina* she is affraid to see, because she had not onely, neglected her counsell, but depriued her of that Iewell, belonging to the Goddesse, whose losse not any account could satisfie: Thus tormented in her mind with these thoughts, which like so many mercilesse executioners toare and diuided her soule into many painful parts, she woare out the length of that ill-boding night, whose dew-wet dank wings, flag'd and flew so slowly that the day was forst to chide her from the earth, and with her bright siluer Mace to ding her head-long downe into the bottome of the Ocean; and now the Sunne, armed

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with his Bow, and his best Darts, as if hee ment to haue become a Champion in those sports, entred his Chariot (which was trimmed with *Hellitropeans*, and with Roses) so gloriously, that the brightnesse of his first countenance tooke all drowfinesse from mens senses, and made euery Nymph, Sheepheard, and Forrester bestirre themselues about that daies triumph.

The Princessse seeing now, that time, and her owne pleasure, had brought her iniuries vpon her, and thrust her head-long into that maze, out of which she had no way to passe, but by the direct line of iustice, willing to bee content, where no vnwillingnesse could breed her satisfaction, and trusting in the vertue of her owne excellency, which shee doubted not, but would defend her from all vndesired claymes; With a heart full of forc'd, and most vnpleasant contentment, shee arose from her dumbe counsel-keeper, the pillow; and, with the helpe of her Hand-maids, adorned her selfe so curiously in Loose-silks, Cipresse, Thinne-lawnes, and Tiffanies, each being pufte, and inter-changeably knotted one with another, that *Zephirus* himselfe, would haue giuen halfe his Deity for so curious and light a garment: Her Buskins were futable, and couered onely the small of her legge; vpon her head shee woare nothing but a light Coronet of small (yet rich) Jewels; and about her necke shee woare a Carkanet of seeming flowers, but, indeed, they were cut out of pretious stones of their naturall colours: When she was fully imbellished, according to her desire, knitting her quiuier to her side, and taking her Bow
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into her hand, shee descended downe into her great Chamber, where shee found all the choicest Nymphes of *Tempe*, in their checkred, and youthfull brauery, adorned so richly, that like so many Starres, they were ready to waite on her, their onely best adored *Cynthia*.

The formost, and best preferred, being the Nymph *Aphelia*, on whom the Princeesse could by no meanes looke without blushing.

Next her, stood *Ethra*, whose heart was big, because her tongue, in that place, could not haue leaue to expostulate with the Princeesse.

Next her, was nimble-tongued *Egeria*, a Nymph famous for Rydles, Rymes, and her affection to Poets.

Then there was witty *Paulina*, a Wench, that naturally spake Epygrams, for few words past from her without a double signification, giuing wits leaue to conser after their owne dispositions, or wantonly, or chastly.

By her stood demure *Driope*, a Nymph that in publicke kept a paire of ballance betweene her lips, waying all things which proceeded from them, but priuately would take liberty to proue, shee was as imperfect as a woman.

Not farre from her was modest *Celsa*, a Nymph whose discretion guarded her from mens misconstructions, and whose vertue tempred her actions with such an indifferent hand, both in disdaine and his contrary, that not any man had cause either to boast of her fauours, or yet to repine at the cruelty of her worst countenance.

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Silvia stood by her side, a Nymph that maintained many heresies in loue, saying: woemen ought to chuse husbands, as wise-men chuse Balieffes, men too simple to deceiue, yet euer so prouident, that they will let no wealth escape them. As for the foure Cardinall vertues, or any other singularity either of minde or body, she held them fit ornaments for seruants whom the plaid with, not for husbands whom they liued with.

Next her, was wanton *Petula*; a Nymph that held strongly the opinion of *Corisca*, which was, that women should vse their louers like their smockes, haue many, change oft, and neuer vse but one at once.

Besides these, there was a world of others, as *Amarillis*, *Gallatea*, & *Glaucia*, *Thestylis*, *Amarantha*, and *Belisa*, and a whole beavy, whose names to record, were a labour troublesome and needlesse.

Not farre from the Lodge of the Princeesse, within a Laund which was richly checkered, and intrayled, with many sorts of most delicate flowers, planted onely by the hand of Nature, with any assistance of Art: there was seated, a most faire and goodly *Amphi-theater*, the out-side whereof was onely buile of a smoth and exceeding rich stone, and the ioints did so artificially close and meete together, without discovering the cymment, or shewing to the eie the mixture of their seuerall crests, that a very good iudgement might haue bene borne with, if it had maintained, that it had bene compacted of one stone onely, but the in-side which was diuided into many large Galleries, & seates of great state was erected of
goodly

goodly pillars of diuers coloured Marbles, whose differences were so diuided, and artificially mixed one with another, that they gaue to the eye of the stranger an amazed delight, full of admiration. All the other parts were richly guilt, and imbossed with most curious Bollage, and adorned with many rare Antickes; in whose liuely figures the work-men had shewed such curiousnesse of skill, that Nature was many times deceiued, supposing them to be her liuing Images.

This Theater was built for many purposes, as first for the hearing & determining of all causes corrigible: Next, for the entertainmēt of all Pastoral sports, and Eglogs: Then for the tryals of Shepheards maisteries, eicher in wrastling, leaping, dauncing, throwing the barre, or sledge; and generally for any publique vse or assembly, where the worthinesse of the action did admit any respectiue regard to the eyes of the beholders.

To this Theater the Nymfes attended the Princessesse, where she was to repose her selfe till the Forresters should giue notice of the preparation of the sports: and because of the greatnesse of the occasion which brought forth this day of admirable triumph, the roomes were more richly adorned & beautified with hangings of costly arras, then at any time formerly it had been; the floore of the stage was all couered ouer with most rich carpets of needle-work, & the rest hung about with cloth of gold, and tyssue: vpon whose frontispice was placed the three prizes, for those three, whose fortunes should that day aduance them by their excellence to the merit of such

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goodnesse, beyond their fellowes. The first of which was the picture of the Princeesse, exceeding rarely drawne, and adorned with many pretty Jewels: and although no art was able to come neere the exquisitenesse of her naturall perfection; yet this was so neere in many most especiall features, that euery eye was able to iudge whose proportion it presented. The second was *Thamielodias* harpe, which *Paris*, when he liued on the mount *Ida*, in his Sheephardish obscurity (knowing no greatnesse, but the gouernement of his flockes; nor goodnesse, but the Nymph *Oenon*) played on, with that happinesse of skill, that hee stirred wonder and emulation in all his fellow-sheepheards which heard him; it was richly bound together in euery ioynt with seames of pure gold; and the same inchaſed with many pretious stones of great estimation. The last was a garland made in the manner of a *Morisco* Coronet, and crosse twound and inueloped with many curious and intricate knots, which onely were distinguished by the colours & artificiall placing of the flowers, euery ioynt and border being bound together with fine knotted rapes of small pearle. This was the hand-worke of the Nymph *Apbeleia*, who in the same had portrayed forth so much rarity of skill, that had *Arachne* beheld it, she would haue ben so much ashamed of her profession, that she would neuer haue dared to challenge *Diana*.

After the Princeesse had reposed herselfe here a pretty space, oft struiuing to draw her thoughts to an vni-ty, whose continuall warre increased both her trouble and torment: In the end the braue Forrester *Sil- uagio*,

magio, attended with many other yong Fosters, all in their woodmens liueries of greene, strip'd with siluer-lace, with their Bugles hung in rich baudricks about their neckes, entred the Theater, and declared vnto the Princesse that the Tyger was lodged, the toyles pitched, the hewee set, and euery other needfull preparation so ordered and placed in their best conuenience, that nothing was wanting which could any way bring perfection to that dayes noble triumph.

Besides, he aduertised her, that the Sheepheards, which that day meant to engage themselues within the honorable lists of that noble contention, were all in a readinesse; euery man being suited in seuerall colours, according to the councell of their imaginations; and wearing on their armes, or breasts, deepe, mysticall, and learned Emprefaes, discovering the strength of their hopes, & the depth of their wishes: concluding that the Sun was got so high vp into the heauens, that her greatnesse could not with any conuenience loose more time, without much hurt to her hopes, and wonderful great impeachment to the sports, and their labours. The Princesse returned him answere, that she was in a perfect readinesse, and had long in that place attended his summons; yet before she would issue forth, she intreated him to deliuer vnto her what Sheepheards were in a readinesse, and stood to try maisteries with her that day; and also what deuises, not all, but the most principall bare about the, that by their inuentions she might adiudge the worthinesse of their discretions.

To which *Siluasio* replied, that the army was so great

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great as to make a particular relation of them all, was to consume the day in no other exercise; onely for those few which were most note-worthy in his eyes, their characters were these.

The first (he said) was youthfull *Menalchas*, a swaine that was so much beholden to Nature for his features, that he scorned to be indebted to Education for any part of the gouvernement of his life: and therefore was like a faire picture, much better to gaze on then to commerce with; whence it sprang, that being onely contented with himselfe, he made respect of no other society: his garments are all of a russet colour, signifying his hope, and his device, which he carries faire depainted vpon his quiver, is a Dormouse sleeping, the word, *Quiescendo Pinguesco*, alluding that his former quietnes hath fed him with so much pleasure, that nothing but this occasion could awaken him to these troubles.

Next vnto him is amorous *Amintas*, one whose affection is so aetive, and laxatiue, that wanting a true subiect whereon to discharge his passions, he will let fall his desires vpon insensible obiects; and yet infinitely defend his owne constancy, in as much as at no time he is inamored of two seuerall creatures: his loue, like a hammer, which driues out one nayle with another, expelling the first fury with the second madness: his garments are all of pure watchet chamblet; vpon his breast hauing liuely embrodered a faire *Heliopean* flowre, bowing his head according to the course of the Sun, & the word, *Soli Phœbo*; signifying, that howsoeuer he hath formerly been transported with a various humour of many alterations; yet notwithstanding

withstanding the true Sunne, which is absolute beauty, is euer his constant obiect.

Neere him is renowned *Colin*; a Sheeheard, that for all the perfections both of minde and body, is worthy to march in the first ranke of men, esteemed most compleat, being a man whom no greatnesse of Fortune can make to neglect his first beginning, nor no lownesse in mishap make stoope to the least signe of basenesse; no, though it should come clothed in the best glories of vnstain'd-honesty: his garments are all of greene Tammell, and on his arme he beares brauely depainted, a Parret, climbing vp a tree both by head and feet; and the word, *Lento pede*, signifying that goodnesse is not gotten by violence, or rashnesse, but by gentle and easie steps, men fixing their feet constantly and firmly: for scales are neuer leapt vp, but with much difficulty slowly walkt vp, euery member being imployed for a mans safety; by which allusion he intimates, that in this controuersie he will discretely apply all the powers, both of his mind and body, worthily to gaine the fauour of the most worthy creature breathing.

Next him standeth strong-limb'd *Hobynol*, a swaine whom all-be Nature hath not cast in her best mowld for the eyes delight, yet she hath fashioned him best for vse, and the imployment of most respected seruice: his garments are of a sky-coloured serge, spangled in euery seame with little *Oes* of gold; and on his skirts are richly embrodered a golden hoope, sent from the heauens, and possessed by a hand, vnder which is this word; *Nec plus, nec minus*, intimating that if his fortune should make him maister

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of that rare Jewell which the Gods themselues keepe in their best safeguard, that then hee had all the contentment he would wish, and more or lesse he would neuer hereafter couer.

Amongst these are rankt the two amorous Shepheards of *Laconia*, braue *Carino*, and discreet *Credulo*, who equally louing the faire Nymph *Cynthia*, haue administred to the world great admiration, both in the constantnesse of their affection; whose flame, though it be violent, yet burnes without distemperature: in their strange ryuallship, wherein is contained neither enuy, nor ill-wishes; and in their vnspotted friendships, which is a president exceeding all the honorable masculine-loues which haue beene recorded since the first ages. These Shepheards are suited both after one fashion, in willow-coloured Taffata, all knotted ouer with a tawny silke lace, and the deuice which they beare, is a Geometricall rule, and the word importing, that no affection can bee happy or prosperous which is not bounded within the limits of wisdom. A world of other Shepheards there are, whom to decipher, were a worke *Herculian* and tedious: onely one, who, like a cleere Sunne in a new troubled sky, which makes, with his brightnesse, euery thing looke cloudy about him, is the noble, and most courtly Shepheard *Diatassan*; who close armed, according to his vsuall custome in the like exercises, is mounted vpon his snow-white Barbary-horse, whom hee maketh performe such strange salts, that fire mounts not from the earth more lightly, nor can nimble Cats wind or turne in so straight a compasse; Art so farre excell-
ling

ling Nature, that shee seemes to be the true schoole-mistres to all deliuer action; whilst he, as if incorporated, and made one substance with the beast, sits so vn moueably-mouing, that not an ouer-curious eye can imagine either disturbance or painefulnesse in any of his motions; he beareth in his right hand a Dart, curiously framed of most pure Iuory, and on his left arme, which beareth his bridle, is a faire shield, cut Scutchion-wise, in which is very liuely portrayed forth *Cupid*, halfe hidden in a faire brooke, and casting a stone into the riuer, whose first touch of the water making a circle no bigger then the stone, from that little circle growes circle vpon circle, till it haue extended to the vttermost verdge of the water: the word importing, that his constant actions in this honourable loue, though at first they appeare no bigger then the small stone, yet shall they so increase in all excellent perfection, that they shall finde no bound to containe them.

The wondring Shepheards stand gazing vpon him; and are so ouer-delighted with the excellency of his rare shew, that as if they drunke a *Lethe* from his actions, they stand, as it were, lost in their wonder, forgetting all things but what is contained in that pleasing object.

Many other things (Madame) there is note-worthy in this faire Army of Shepheards, but none so pretious as these with which I haue acquainted your most excellent attention.

When the Princeesse had heard the Forresters Gentlemanlike description of the Shepheards, and

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had noted his ouer-flow of commendations layd vpon the person of *Diatassan*, she turned her head aside, and gaue her thoughts leaue to say to her heart: O that vnworthinesse should euer bee so ready to furnish vp our delights, whilst true worth it selfe lyes hidden where no eye can reueale it! Alasse! *Diatassan* is here he that hath nothing but the vizard of vertue, seeming like that, to which of all things hee is most contrary: but *Thirsis* is not here, hee that is not like, but is all vertue himselfe, whose cheek was neuer painted with any adulterate colour of false goodnesse.

O *Thirsis*, *Thirsis*, hearest thou not that which all *Tempe*, I all *Theffaly*, nay all *Greece* heares? that whose shrill sound hath awaked *Arcadia*, and made euen the Wood-gods and Satyrs leaue their well-closed thickets to come and be witnesses of our actions? Art thou onely sencelesse of our wishes, or haue mine ancient disdains so deafned and deie&ed thy once-admired spirit, that as a man in a Lethargie thou doest slumber out all those opportunities which should either giue thy selfe or me any contentment?

Woe is mee alasse! neither of these doe perplex thee, a much stronger bond of most vnhalloved inchantment is the restraint of thy presence, making me vnfortunate in thine absence, and giuing audacious boldnes to those weake spirits who with thy very sight would haue vanisht, & neither haue attempted any danger or trouble: But since the venome hand of fortune hath mesured my destiny with these crosse-lines, and made me a slaue both to chance and
mens

mens vnsetled opinions, I am resolued, that my resolution, Art, and dexterity (which till this howre hath neuer faild mee) shall once againe make mee free; so that being vntomb'd from these foulds and snares of selfe-wil'd incumbrance, I shall once againe behold those calme daies of safety, which formerly with much delight, I haue euer enioyed.

The Princeesse was not so much perplexed and troubled in her disquieted thoughts; but on the other part, the Nymph *Aphelia* was ten times more vexed with intollerable passions, of anger, feare, and iea-lousy, when her eares had but drunke in the sound that her Sheeheard *Diatassan* was prepared to try Masteries that day with the Princeesse. Feare perswading her that the true excellencies which were in *Melidora* (super-excelling all the Dames in *Europe*) might very well proue such attractiue motiues to the tendernesse of his yong vnsetled iudgement, that cloathing his reuolt in Fortunes falsest colours, hee might with an vnblushing cheeke leaue her forsaken and despised: which perswasion, her anger makes certaine and vndoubted, saying.

That, but hee was infected with the leprosy of lustfull change, it was impossible hee should ingage himselfe thus pompously into a contention, wherein the maine end was nothing but the enioying of a new Mistresse, leauing her honest faith naked, to the scorne of her emulators, and his owne priuate derision: Which (shee said) hee should no sooner bring to passe, but her iust reuenge, banishing all things but what was absolutely mixt with the most vgliest despaire, should so tyrannize ouer his ill

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fullied body, that sleepe-wanting Nursses should bring their wrangling babes to rest, with the fearefull report of her cruelty.

And this wrathfull resolution was scarce settled in her bosome, when, euer, ill-counselling-Iealousy, not onely applaudes it, but brings also to her remembrance a thousand crosse *Chimeras*, and ill countenances of his falshood; and now she calls to mind her last encounter with him, wherein his vnkind flight, & her too kind pursuite, was a volume large enough for her to reade the great story of his mutability, and the vtter banishment of all that noble affection which shee had placed most vnworthily in him.

These three tormentors of the minde, with so many vexations rackt and macerated her deadly afflicted soule; that if honour, and honourable construction, had not suddenly entred, and gotten, in despite of their aduersaries, a quiet place in her thoughts, she had there giuen leaue to impatience to haue publiht her agonies, and with much distracted resolution had giuen disturbance to all their sports.

But honour, which is, euer, the cleerer of imputation, resolues her that his ends are noble and full of vertue, intending but to shew the world his power, not his loue, and that hauing wonne the best Prize, hee will augment the betternesse thereof, by giuing it's lost freedome againe to it's owne disposition: a worke most gratefull to the Princeesse, honorable to himselfe, and full of admiration to all his beholders; and with these cogitations, her heart being a little appeased, fearefull that any worse remembrances

branches should blot out their goodnesse, she turnes to the Princeesse, and puts her in minde of the consumption of the day; the ready preparation of the sports, and the expectation of her seruiceable contenders; vpon which aduertisement, the Princeesse returned answere, that shee was ready, and willed them to set forward.

So the Forresters, in their greene Liueries, with their Bugles in rich Baudrickes about their neckes, guilt lauelings in their hands, and veluet collars gold-studded with silken Lyams at their girdles, marched two and two before the Princeesse: The meane and yong Fosters going euer formost, and the grauer and better authorized following after.

Behind the Princeesse followed all the Nymphes in equall cooplerts; the best, and of choicest respect going formost, and the meaner following according to their rankes and places: Being in this comely equipage issued out of the *Amphitheater*, the Sheepheards, vpon the first beholding of the Princeesse, gaue a great shout, & the ranking her on either side, like two wings in a well ordered Battell, they marched into the strength, and heart of the Forrest, where the Tyger was lodged, to whose Kennell when they were some-what neerely approached, the Forresters caused them to make a stand, and then placing the Princeesse with a little aduantage before, all the Sheepheards, who ingaged themselves in the contention, were in two rankes marshald on either hand of her: only *Thirsis*, who the was supposed to be the youthfull *Diatassan*, presuming vpon the strength of his owne fortune, stood alone by himselfe a pretty distance

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distance behind them all, and now the Forresters vn-coupling their Hounds, and casting them off into the Thicket, euen in a thought of time vnkennelled the Tyger, whose tell-tale feete (being true intelligencers to his aduersaries noses) made his most secret pathes so publickely knowne, that the chace continued long, swift, hot, and without respite: Now did the Musicke of the well-mouthed Hounds make the Trees shake their leaues for ioy, whose rattling murmure seemed to giue seconds to their clamours; the shoutes, and hallowings of the Shepherds beate the hollow vaultes of heauen with such a rebounding noyse, that many Ecchoes, straining their shrill voyces, doubled and trebled euery single acclamation, and the Forresters winding their loud hornes, sent such a peale through the vast Desarts, that they awaked all the vntamed inhabitants therof, striking such fearefulnesse into their mindes, that no remembrance was left which could instruct them to any safety; each of these, by themselves, were as a seuerall consort of wel-tuned Musicke, but being mixt together and made one body, of one vniuersall sound, they were so fearefull, and full of distracting admiration, that no stranger-eare but would haue ben deafened euen with the very eccho of the same.

In this maine chace, wherein the Tyger, for his safety, made many deceitfull doublings, and interchangeable courses, both backe and forth, measuring the ground with such painfulnesse, that no secret corner was left by him vntrodden; of all the ranks of Nymphes, Shepherds, or Forresters, whose mornings ostentations would haue made
one

one beleue no length of time could tire out their resolutions; not any was able to keepe the veiw of the Hounds but onely the Princeſſe, and the ſuppoſed *Diataffan*, who running in an euen line, without any coniecture of aduantage, made Art it ſelfe vnſkilfull which ſhould triumph in the victory; behind them, a little diſtance, ranne the Nymph *Eſthera*, who ſeeing the equall doubtfulneſſe of eithers fortunes, beganne to curſe her ill-boading counſell, and wiſht ſhee had loſt her memory, before her remembrance gaue life to that vnfortunate deſigne: By this time the day was growne to his laſt age, and *Phæbus* bowing downe his head, that he might, with more familiar neereneſſe, behold the differences in theſe Paſtorall contentions, the long-wearied, and ouer-chafed beaſt beganne to ſlacke his ſwifter foote-man-ſhip, and perceiuing that the twigs and brambles of the Thickets (on which his diſtilling ſweate abundantly dropped) were become his notorious betrayers, hee forſakes their falſe ſtrengths, and betakes himſelfe into the plaine Launds, where hoping to finde ſome friendly Pond, or Riuer, in which hee might ſoile and reſreſh his tormented body, is ſo much deſceined in his truſt, that as if Nature had lockt vp the heads of the Springs, there is no moiſture left to coole the leaſt ſparke which inflames him: No ſooner did the diſguiſed *Thirſis*, behold the fierce beaſt to forſake the Woods, and with a much imboſted mouth to run madly intraged through the plaine Medowes, knowing that now came the howres of aduantage; with a redoubled ſpeed hee ſprang lightly vpon the earth, and out-ſtrippt the Princeſſe a good

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quantity

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quantity of ground; which shee no sooner perceiued, but inflamed with a little displeased passion, she gathered her strength together, and like a gentle gale of Westerne wind, she ouer-tooke him againe & flew before him; so that now their contention grew to the greatest extremity, one not being able to say this hath the aduantage before the other had the better; Fortune playing the wanton betweene them, and taking delight to giue assurance of hope to neither, which, vnexpected, doubtfulnesse when the diuine *Nelidora* beheld, she could not chuse but, out of her amazement, thus say within her-selfe.

How oft hath this yong man and I, in our Pasto-
rall sportes, tryed our speeds together, yet neuer was
he able (but with difficulty) to keepe the view of my
foote-steps? Onely, now he is likely to bee my sub-
duer: O iust heauens, what power haue I offended?
or what Deity is it I haue neglected so much, that
my vertue is taken from mee and giuen as a prey to
him that is my greatest enemy? *Diana*, ô *Diana* thou
soueraigne protectresse of all chaste thoughts, visite,
I beseech thee, my mis-fortunes, and, either make
mee free againe for thy seruice, or fixe mee to this
earth a metamorphosed Monument for all thy hand-
maids to gaze on; and as her thoughts were thus tal-
king, she sodainely ranne, not onely, before the sup-
posed *Diatassan*, but euen before the formost Hound
also, comming so neere to the halfe-tyred beast, that
shee discharged one of her Darts at his life, with
such wel-leuelled dexterity, that there was not a fin-
gers bredth betwixt the beast and his destruction;
when, vnknowne, *Thirsis* perceiued this, and saw
with

with what narrowness he had escaped much dishonour, he gathered all his best powers together, and running cheeke by ioule with the Princesse, there was Darte throwne for Darte, with such nimbleness on both sides, that true winning seemed indifferently to be placed betweene them, governing their hands and bodies in euery motion, onely it seemed, that to the disguised *Thirsis*, shee lent her better, or right hand, for from him flew a Dart, with such euen and true aime, that it passed through the heart of the Tyger, leauing two open issues through, which in streames of bloud his life shed vpon the ground; but scarcely was the wounded beast false, before the mistaken Sheepeheard came vnto him, and with a sinall Semytar which hee woare at his side hee diuided his head from his body, and as a Trophy of his most glorious and victorious conquest hee prickt it vpon the head of one of his Dartes, and so bore it through the fields, in the veiw of the most of the Sheepeheards, which were present at those sportes, many of them crossing the waies to meete him, and to congratulate the blisse of his happy fortune; but, mistaken *Thirsis* knowing the danger of these caressing accompliments, auoided their pressures, and with a nymble foote (whose swiftnesse none was able to imitate) hee held his direct way towards the Cabynet of *Diatassan*, loosing the sight, and knowledge of all his pursuers.

When the Princesse beheld her selfe thus vanquisht, and, as it were, lost and diuided from her selfe, amazement, a little while, held passion out of

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her bosome, and perswaded her imaginations that it could not bee; which shee thought impossible to bee, but sight, and her remembrance, bearing witness against such insubstantiall coniectures, she gaue discontentment leaue, in his worst and vgliest habyliments, to take full possession of her heart, deuising rather how shee might die vertuously, then liue tormented with one (meaning *Diatassau*) so much in-glorious; and as shee was in the midst of these meditations the Nymph *Ethera* came vnto her, and seeing her downe-cast, and detected sorowfulnesse shee humbly intreated to know the euent of her fortune, but could receiue from her no more but these words.

Thou, and my beleeefe, haue vndone mee, and I am now a prey to the worst that mis-fortune pleaseth; Which said, and hauing more grieffe in her minde, then could by any Language bee expressed, shee tooke her way towards her owne Lodge, hauing no companion but onely her vnspeaking calamity, the Nymph *Ethera* following her a farre off, her owne shame, and *Mellidoraes* displeasure making her not dare, either with perswasion, or excuse, to attempt her interruption. And now the euening ending the day with the end of these delights, the Nymphes and Sheepheards being gathered together, and the Forresters hauing broken vp the beast, and trust him on a Bore-speare, in a gallant and sollemne manner attended the Princeesse to her Lodge, the next day, being the certaine and prefixed time in which the prizes are to be challenged, adjudged, and deliuered.

And

And here the old Prophet and Priest of the great God *Pan* made a pause, and knitting to his story no conclusion; and so giuing to the Prince, little, or no satisfaction, in so much that *Adunatus* awaking him with his intreaties, said; Nay, good father, leaue not my memory in this imperfect *Dedalian* laborinth, whence it can neither deliuer it selfe, nor giue account of the passages it hath troden: I beseech you enrich me with the knowledge of their crosse-fortunes, how vnworthily *Diatassan* could make challenge to the Princessse, and what end ensued to the faithfull and most miserable *Thirsis*.

To this intreaty *Eugenio* returned this answer; The end of these crosse fortunes, and the winding *Meanders* wherein chance hath run vp and downe with an vnsteady course, I would (my faire sonne) haue thine owne eyes witnesse, whose testimony will bring a better feeling to euery part of thy charitable sence, then any relation of mine: For know, that but this euening is finished all that I haue declared, touching this last daies controuersie, which prophetickly I haue deliuered vnto thee from a diuine relation, being in euery part so true, that *Truth* himselfe will stand Champion to defend the iustnesse of all that I haue reported; and to morrow is the fatall day, wherein (if thou please) thou mayest behold hard-steeled *Audaciousnesse*, with an Adamantine and vnblushing front, so confidently challenge what he neuer merited, that *Vertue & Wisdome* will stand amazed to see coward *Vntruth*, in a moment, growne so admirably valiant; in which intricate worke being contained a world of strange calamities, if thy thrice-royall

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spirit will vouchsafe to giue a plaine solution, and plucking falshoods maske from his indire& looking-vilage, shew the deceit of an vnsetled affection, thou shalt gaine the loue of the Gods, the praises of Angels, and the prayers of men: Yet thus much I must aduertise thee, that as thy selfe, a Prince of high place and digniry, thou mayest not appeare in that assembly: for the lawes are seuer, and without all fauour executed against any of dignity, or eminent ranke, that dare to enter those forbidden walkes. Besides, when you shall attaint *Diatasfan* of his deceit, and vnfold the worthy and laborious conquest of the euer-miserable *Thirsis*, it will bee lawfull for *Diatasfan* to defend his truth by a pastorall combate, to which he may call you, without further delay, or meditation.

The Prince as much ouer-ioyed with the report of this aduenture, as distressed men are with the release of their afflictions, or noble spirits with the possession of new honours: told *Eugenio* that hee bestowed vpon him a double benefit, euerlastingly vnrequitable; first, by enriching his memory with a story so full of all the remarkeable notes of Fortunes most vnsteady gouernement in the actions of mans life, wherein both delight and pittie were so curiously and cunningly mixt together, that no time could seeme tedious which was spent in the repetition of so memorable accidets, but especially by opening so faire a path to his honour and reputation, through which they might passe to the hauen of their desires, by giuing comfort to the miserable, and taking from the most vertuous, that most deceitfull abuse of falsehood

hood, which in after time might proue the vtter blemish of all her hopes and happy wishes. And hence he vowed to the holy Prophet, that with all carefulnesse, and the best powers both of his minde and body, he would (according to such directions and instructions as he should receiue from his wisdom) engage himselfe, not onely against *Diatassan*, but the whole world, which would stand forth and iustifie a falshood so strong and insufferable; in which (he said) his hopes assured his fortunes such successfull happinesse, that he doubted not but with much ease to bring to passe the effects of his desires, goodnesse not being able to endure that wrong should so cruelly tyrannize ouer vertue. Yet (said the Prince) before wee proceed any further into the resolution of this aduenture, I beseech you (if my longings be not troublesome to your memory) declare vnto me the incounter of the two Shepherds, *Thirsis* and *Diatassan* after the conquest was obtained, and with what power of patience the victor could giue to another both his faith, his honour, and his life.

Hast thou seene my sonne (quoth the old man) two contrary elements meet together with weake and consumed forces, as sparkes with drops? or the early Sunne with the moist dew? Such was the incounter of these two Swaines: for when *Diatassan* saw him returne with the trophy of his conquest, his overioyed heart so swelled with astonishment, that robbing him of all other senses, saue only his eye-sight, he became the wondring companion of a compulsatory silence, the whilst *Thirsis*, on the other part, beholding his executioner standing before him, to
whom

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whom he must not onely deliuer vp all the garments of hopes, which had maintained him from the frozen bitternesse of an vn-satisfied despaire, but euen the deere pretiousnes of his life, which nature, by the strongest bond of bloud, had tyed him about all things to cherish and preserue, with a heart torne & diuided into many peeces, by the cruell hands of loue, gratitude, faith, and his owne free promise, suddenly stood still, as if he had beheld the countenance of *Medusa*, or *Curtius* gulfe, into which one steppe more had cast him headlong. And thus these two happy vnhappy Shepheards stood with constant vnremouing eyes, gazing one vpon the other, whilst silence holding their tongues prisoners, stood smiling to suruey the strength of their contrary passions. But griefe, which will not alwayes be bounded within limits, all-be of all passions it hath the worst vtterance, being euer more familiar with the heart, then the lips, checking his astonishment thus, made *Thirfis* say vnto *Diataffan*; Behold (deere Shepheard) here in my hand, the image of my loyalty and death, the first drawne from thy merit in worthily preseruing mee, most vnworthy of all preseruation: the latter from my destiny, which the Fates, as a miracle, haue throwne into the world for men to gaze and talke on, but not to be rankt with any other, how aduerse or vnfortunate soeuer. O *Diataffan*! constantly behold me, whilst I possesse this which I haue painfully obtained. I am (as thou seest) a man, a man of hope, a man of health, and a man of much happinesse. I haue motions in my bloud, strength in my spirits, and a will to aduance the a&ts of an inuiolate friendship,

ship, but being seuered and diuided, I am nothing more then exanimated earth, vselesse, respectlesse, and but in my sorrowes, eternally forgotten. Since then all the goodnesse which my life could euer couet, the blisse of my wishes, the heauen of my contentment, and the inexpressable consolations which after death should eternally make my walkes in *Elysium*, greene and faire flourishing, are piled vp together in this bleeding monument; and since my voluntary faith, from a well-prized consideration, thought you worthy to bee made the great maister, and true owner of them all: and since it is the will of heauen that mine owne truth shal be mine owne persecutor, hold, accept this Tygers head, which I haue kild to kill my selfe, and to giue thee that life of vnspeakeable contentment, which Angels would bee proud to enioy, and the Gods themselues will enuy, because it is the greatest of all terrestriall deities. And as hee was thus speaking, amazement had such fast hold vpon *Diatassan*, or rather bashfulnesse, which was afraid to vsurpe vpon a right, to which it could make no possible iust claime, that it held his hands from receiuing the trophy, whose honour did nothing at all become a minde so farre short in desert and worthines. But *Thirsis* with more aggrauation awakned him saying; Nay, do not let pittie make thee miserable, accept it, indeed you shall accept it: why, my life is so due a rent vnto you, that in taking it, you take no more but your owne: nay, hardly all your owne: for had I many liues, they were but many tributes, and should (to auoyd more euill) bee all paid in this moment. Do not looke so sadly: for all

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the ioyes in the world are false into your possession; forget me, I pray thee forget me, and henceforth remember nothing but thine owne happinesse, which is so farre from equalling, that *Iupiter* himselfe doth exceed thee in nothing but eternitie. And here hee thrust the dart (on which the Tygers head was fastened) with such earnestnesse into his hand, that *Diatassan* receiuing it, began to say; Thy sorrowes, and my pittie (deere Shepheard.) My sorrowes (saide *Thirsis*) interrupting the Shepheard) o do not mixe them with thy pittie, since they are so vterly without bound, that no remorse hath a circumference large enough to containe them. O let them liue with themselves: for they are many degrees beyond mortal calamities, and shall serue hereafter, for *Lamentations* Maister-peece, by whose example hee shall modell out strange afflictions. As for my selfe I am the onely wretched caitife of the world, a man so much scorned of all creatures, that wickednesse it selfe is a subiect too good for my disdain. I beseech thee, since my faith hath paid thee all thou didst desire, though not all thou hast deserued, suffer me to passe where I may dye, and be no more remembered; Anchor-like ingrauing my selfe so obscurely, that no gentle hand shall haue power to fixe to the same, either the teares of louing Shepheards, or any other more charitable Epitaph. And when hee had thus said, he deliuered to *Diatassan* whatsoeuer had passed betwixt the Princeesse and him in the chace, the manner of their contention, the doubtfulnesse of their course, their interposing one another with their darts, and all other priuate actions whatsoeuer, fortifying

rifying his remembrance with such strength of knowledge, that it was impossible for the strictest examination to disprove him, or say he was absent, who was able to give an account much more certaine then any of those which were present. This done, and not suffering *Diatassan* to give him any reply, he turned about & departed towards the woods, and mountaines, to seeke out a place convenient, where his life might expire.

After whose foot-steps as *Diatassan* with much admiration gazed, he said; Go the constantest, the faith-fullest, the thankfullest, & the worthiest sheepeheard which this earth supporteth, thou that hast thoughts so farre exceeding all thoughts in true worthinesse; and a vertue so good, beyond the reach of our earthly knowne goodnesse, that men can finde no excellency deseruing the dignity to be compared with thy perfections. Goe, and my prayers accompany thy safety, whilst the diuine hand of some powerfull deity may gently dew vpon thy temples, some cold *Le-
she* to aswage the burning passions of thy true loue, and exile it into eternall obliuion. But foole that I am, what auaieth my wishes to the losse of his precious life, which euen now is vnder the arest of a languishing destruction? Alasse! I am become vnnaturally cruell, nor shall all the Annals of tyrants, preserved from succeeding ages, equall, or come neere to the bloodinesse of my president; I do not slaughter a subiect, but a companion; not a foe to my peace, but the onely friend of my quiet; not a disturbing riual of my loue, but the onely builder vp of mine affectionous satisfaction; not he that hath robbed

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me of mine honour, but he that hath giuen me a renowne beyond imagination, whereby I am become vngratefull to friendship, rebellious to hospitality, a destroyer of vertue, a theefe to reputation; nay, a traytor to all goodnesse, and the onely monster that nature, or vglinesse can produce: and shall I liue to liue with these imputations? I will not, alas! I will not; my tardy feet shall bee winged to beare him backe his owne true glories, nor will I Impe my fame with feathers which are too glorious for my wings.

And here, as his passion was whirle-winde-like carrying him in pursuit of the most forlorne *Thirsis*, selfe-loue (who in all this worke had the onely souerainty ouer all his determinations) staid him, and compelling him to looke earnestly vpon the Tygers head, hee said; Alas! for pittie, that this toy should not onely burne and consume in me the knowledge of all mine owne goodnesse, but (committing a murther worse then sacriledge) sprinkle sad teares ouer all *Theffaly. Troy*, thou wert happy in thy cinders: for the brand which kindled thy flames, was the compleatnesse of all beauties; but this, which will lay waste the only glorious garden of *Europe*, is the grim detested visage of a man-hating monster, shall I then hold it? deere madnesse forsake mee, I will not, in truth I will not.

And here he would the second time haue posted after *Thirsis*, but then Loue sprinkling his thoughts with new flowers, he said; And is this Tygers head all that disturbeth me, or kils the desperate sheepeheard? O no, this is nothing but the plaine-fac'd monstrous obie& in a perspectiue table, through whose
secret

secret crany, if I cast my eies slope-wise, I shall then behold the beauty of all beauties, euen the day of life, and the light of mortall admiration I meane, the neuer-enough-adored *Melidora*: she without whom my heart can enioy no pleasure, nor my life comfort: Shall I then giue away my owne life for anothers delight, or become miserable to make another flourish, with my riches? it is both vnlawfull, and vnreasonable; charity ought to beginne in our selues, and thence to succeed to our friends, and not preposterously to pine our owne fortunes for the making vp of an others happinesse: Pardon mee *Thirsis*, for since thou hast thrust occasions fore-top into my hand, and giuen mee opportunity to aspire to the height of all contentment, I must and will enioy it, my pittie extending vnto thee the almes of my best wishes, but not depriuing mee of the blisse of mine excellent destiny: And with this resolution hee went into his Cabinet, where hee placed the head of the Tyger in much safety, making many prayers and orizons vnto Time, that hee would make swifter his pace, and cut short the length of the tedious night, so infinitely were his desires transported with an vn-satisfied longing for the next day.

And thus (my most worthy sonne) you haue from an ill-tuned lippe heard all whatsoeuer is already passed in this doubtfull story of much worldly disaster, wherein fortune is pleased to bee so much like her selfe, both in cruelty and incertainty, that nothing can bee more memorable to make vp the perfite charracter of her Deity: as for the conclusion, or making vp of the last act in this stage-play of for-

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tunes onely inuention, I would haue your selfe (my sonne) in it, not onely a vertuous spectator, but (when the tyranny of falshood shall adiudge truth to eternall banishment) such a worthy actor, that discovering the deuouring couetousnesse of selfeloue, you may bring vertue backe from exile, and defend it against all the assaults of enuious mutability.

To these words the Prince replied : Sleight, and but supposed intreaties (deere father) do easily enflame a mind to pursue it's owne desires, because the strength of nature armeth our opinions that there can bee no greater goodnesse; and so in mee, whom your wisdom hath (with the feeling deliuerance of this delicate discourse) not onely stirred vp, but so firmly bound, with all willingnesse and delight, to pursue this aduventure, be well assured my desires are so strong and violent, that no occasion shall withdraw mine eyes from beholding the last passage in the same; therefore I beseech you giue me such instruction, as may with the best assurance conduct me to the place where these aduentures are nourished, and doubt not but my resolution, which euer hitherto hath bene grounded vpon vertuous causes, shall so bring to passe the worthy ends of your desires, that you shall imagine your imployment nobly inferred vpon me.

In that (faire Prince) answered the old man, there is neither scruple nor doubt, for thy fate hath yet an euene and well-spun thrid, which fortunes hand shall not disfigure with knots; therefore, touching thine instructions, both to the place, and in the place, know, that

that not farre from my Cell the way lies broad, euen,
and much frequented, leading directly to those
Launds where both standeth the *Amphi-theater*, and
the Lodge of the Princeesse, to this way my selfe will
be your guide, and because the denial of seuerelawes
will not suffer any of supreme or eminent quality,
to be eie-witnesses of the least pleasure in that de-
lightfull Garden; death, as it were, girdling it about,
and defending it from all authority of greatnesse;
Know, that within my Cell I haue a Sheepheards
suite, comely and wel-fashioned, whose cap being
with diuers foulds, made Helmet like, in such man-
ner, that being drawne ouer the visage, no eie is able
to acknowledge his most best acquaintance. In this
you shall adorne your selfe (though too humble for
your excellencie) and playing the part not of a rude
and barberous Heardef-man, but of a wittily con-
ceited and learned Pastor, enter into that worke
which shall make your fame glorious for euer. As
for your horse, armour, and other imbellishments
belonging to your person, you shall leaue them
heere in my Cell, where they shall abide vnder the
garde of as great safety, as if they were enclosed in
the Brazen Turret of the God of Security.

To these admonitions, the Prince giuing a willing
and wel-pleased eare, hee told the old Prophet that
his words were to him Oracles of such reuerence
and dignity, that not the least tittle or hidden sence
in them should either be disobeyed, or vnsatisfied,
and thus eithers resolution being so well combined
and married together, that Deity could discerne in
them but one intire thought; the Sunne wearied with
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the great child-birth of delights, which proceeded from the trauell of that bigge day; whose twinnes made him wantonly neglect the swift pace of his most constant course, fearefull that *Iupiter* should suppose hee had found another Nymph farre exceeding his *Daphne*, like a *Meteor* falling from the high heauens, hee euen in one moment descended from the Mountaines, & nestled his head in the bosome of diuine *Ihetis*, where shaking his danke lockes, hee restored to the earth the siluer dew which hee had suckt vp in the morning, whilst the euening, trimming vp the nights rusty Caroch, gaue warning to mens labours of her blacke appearance.

This, when the Prince, and *Eugenio* beheld, they retired themselues into the Prophets Cell, where after they had taken a moderate repast, they coucht them downe vpon two seuerall homely (but yet most sweete) Cabens: Where the Prince, al-be there was nothing which could giue him either offence or distast, yet the calme silence of the dumbe night (which euer is a friend to disturbed and cumbersome cogitations) so clens'd from his Temples the inchanting cold, sweete dew of delightfull slumber, that his actiue and perturbed spirit, partly through his next daies exploit, but most especially for the losse of his dearest of all friends, the most excellent *Thamastus*, would suffer no rest to close vp the liddes of his eies, but he lay and gaue full scope to his imaginations to tyranize ouer his quiet, tumbling himselfe vp and downe, and oft changing place, though he would neuer change his perturbation, till the day, who had slept out the night in the quiet lap of the Ocean;

Ocean, began to lift vp his head, and ouer the tops of the highest Mountaines to take a generall suruey of halfe part of the world, which as soone as the Prince *Adunatus* perceiued, being wearied that he was so much weary of that, which might haue preserved him from wearinesse, arose, and in his rising gaue alarum, as it were, to the old mans rest, who abashed (that youth should giue him the president for wakefulnesse) start from his Cabin, and after accomplimentall morning salutations, they attired themselues, the old man in his ordinary and daily habits, but the Prince in his Shepherds suite, whose homely plainenesse was so mixt with a proportionall and decent comelinesse, that it was a disputable question, whether his person (which was euer matchlesse for delicacy) or his attire were the greater ornament.

As soone as the Prince was in all points attired according to the will of the old man, and had receiued his former instructions from words of stronger efficacy (signifying the dilligence of his carefulnesse) they sate downe, and did eate of those homely cates which the season of the time, and the old mans industry had provided; which finished they issued out of the Cell, *Eugenio* leading the way, and the Prince in his Shepherdish disguise, with a strong knotty Sheep-crooke in his hand, following his foote-steps till they came to that large, faire, euen, and much frequented path which leads to those pleasant Walkes where all the Shepherds inhabited, there the old Prophet tooke his leaue of the Prince; for hee told him it would breed danger to the happinesse of the

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designe

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designe which so vertuously they pursued, if any eie should discouer him in his company; and therefore willing him to retaine that constant resolution, which with so much goodnesse he had begotten, and with so much honour he should persite, he departed from the Prince, and returned backe to the holy Chappell of the God whom hee serued, where hee made many earnest, and wel-spoken orizons for the prosperous fortune, and successfull end of their vn-hurtfull proiect.

The Prince being left alone, and nothing to accompany him but the tedious way and his owne thoughts, both most busie intelligencers of the affaires and diuersities of fortune, being now big with child, of much longing, and many hopes, he trauelled as well with his mind as his body, till he came into those Launds, where hee not onely beheld the Shepheards habitations, but also the Lodge of the Princessse, and the stately building of the huge *Amphitheater*, to which place onely he directed his steps, for he might behold many swarmes of people with an extraordinary pace flocking to the same, as though the expence of the day, or their owne slouth should bring them too late to that blest sight, which with an vnusuall violence they both pursued and desired; the notice whereof, when it had taken in the Prince a considerate impression, he, in imitation of their dilligence, made a little more then vsuall hast, so that ioyning himselfe with the presse and throng of the vulgar sort of people, he entred into the *Theater* vnregarded, and without any especiall notice taken of his presence; where he placed himselfe in such
a con-

Of the English Arcadia. 50

a conuenient roome, both for his obscurit^y, and publication, when the necessity of time should call him forth to the same, that neither the enuy, nor delight of any eie was troubled with his presence.

The morning was as yet but yong, and in his infant weakenesse, so that neither the Iudges, Challengers, nor Challenged appeared in this great assembly, but they sat feeding their thoughts with expectations, longings, and those prophesying cogitations which are euer the companions of the eies hopes. But time, which like a man vpon high scatches can keepe any pace but standing still, ranne so swiftly post vpon the flow howres, that immediately the assembly, which were but onely the eie-ornaments of that great place, might heare the sound of many excellent loud instruments, which entring first into the Theater, their followed them in couplets all the Woodmen and Forresters belonging to those Launds, after them came a noyse of Shepheards Bag-pipes compounded of many multitudes of Reedes, whose foote-steps were pursued likewise in couplets by all those Shepheards who had bene actors in the former daies controuersy, and after them succeded a consort of Rebeckes, and other more milder sounding instruments, curiously toucht by the fingers of most skilfull artizans, after whom came, in a triumphant equipage, the two worthy Shepheards *Colni* and *Oppicus*, leading prisoner betweene them that monster and disgrace of men, the great out-law and rauer most cruell *Demagoras*: Then appeared single by himselfe the vndisguised *Diatassan*, bearing (with an vnblushing cheek, or any other intelligencing

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cing countenance) vpon the point of a rich Ianeling faire-guilt, veluet-bound, and gold-studded; the head of the Tiger: Next him followed two yong Sheepheards (bare-headed and in like suites of apparell) the one bearing the Princeesse Bow, and the other her Quiuer; Next whom, followed her diuine person, all vayed ouer in rich Lawnes, wrought with most curious spider-works: And a pretty distance behind her came a mixture of twelue Lutes, rarely toucht by the fingers of twelue faire Virgines; then three other yong Sheepheards bare-headed, who vshered the three Iudges richly clad in roabes of crimson veluet, bordered and powdered with all manner of curious flowers, skilfully imbrodered on the same; the Nymph *Apheleia* being chiefe, and the two Nymphs *Ethera* and *Clea* her equall assistants; after them came in couplets all the Nymphs and Virgines belonging to those Walkes, and in this manner, of most Princely Pastorall solemnity, they entred into the Theater, taking their places on those rich and stately adorned Scaffolds, which were with great dilligence onely preserued for their vse and imployment: The Iudges being inthroned in the frontespice, or face of that huge round; and the Challenged and Challengers on either hand of their state & magnificence; All which orderly & court-like proceeding, when the Princely *Adunatus* beheld he was stricken into an admiration beyond wonder, his minde easily perswaded to belecue, that the first state and pompe of greatnesse was borrowed from these humble manner of people, no rule in Heraldry being able to marshall a troupe with greater dignity and splendor.

Now

Now when euery creature was set in silent admiration of what would insue from this great wombe of perfect wonder, no sence supposing that any crosse-fortune could cloud the sun-shine of their delights, there was solemnly made, with a most audible voice ouer the whole Theater, a distinct and wel-delivered Proclamation, for a generall silence; and then was read the commission from the Princesse, declaring her free consent, and absolute resignation of all her perticular authority into the hands of those well-elected Iudges there present, and the strong covenant wherein she had bound herselfe, without all euasions, to yeeld and humble her person to bee wholly disposed by their censures; her great name, place, and most supream soueraignty being freely giuen vp to the customes of their pastorall lawes, and the chance of such fortune as should that day attend vpon her. And this being read, there was a second proclamation made, commanding all such persons as could, by vertue of that writ, or any other accident happened in the former daies controuersie, make any challenge to the prizes there extant, to stand forth and make his challenge, and hee should receiue all indifferent hearing, and iustice.

The last of this proclamation was hardly departed from the proclaimers lips, when the courtly Sheepheard *Diatassan* arose, and with his grim Trophy in his hand, placing himselfe before the faces of the Iudges, after solempne reuerence (as dissimulation neuer wanteth any inchanxing garbe that may breede contentment) he thus spake vnto them.

You sacred and well-elected Iudges of the great
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workes

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workes of the last great day, whose euen and direct eyes are neuer turned from the object of diuine equiry; if the liberall hand of man-advancing Fortune, hath, from the true regard of my loyalty, and the vnfeigned zeale of my faith, which euer hath preserved in me a serviceable affection (vnmarchable by any others imitation) bestowed vpon mine humble seruices, that rich and vnspeakable dignity which none but deiry it selfe can iustly presume to merit: or if my painefull actions in the last dayes trauell, of which, not onely this bleeding Trophy, but the generall eyes of the most part of this assembly, are direct and vnfeined witnesses, haue made mee powerfully worthy to challenge the greatest blessing that this earth containeth; a fate so farre beyond the circuit of my hopes (though euer next to my wishes) that my humble spirit yet trembleth to demand the faire gift of my destiny: then to your most worthy iudgements I appeale, and craue that iustice which belongeth to my fortune, which is the most blissefull interest in this all-excelling great Ladies seruice; at whose feet, in all humiility, I lay downe this ensigne of my conquest, and with it my true heart, armed with so great zeale, and deuoute adoration to her vertues, that neither time nor death shall weare out the truth of mine affection. When hee had thus spoken, the Nymph *Aphelie* standing vp, made this reply to her shepheard.

Faire and renowned yong man, whose active excellency hath aduanced thine admiration farre beyond all thy companions, and set thee vp in the highest throne of euey creatures affection, making thy
praises

praises run vpon mens tongues, through euery corner of the world; because (as I suppose) thy contention was onely to shew thy vertue, not to retaine any benefite contained in the proclamation, more then an honourable power to bestow thy purchase backe, whence it was lost; From the rarenesse of which action, men shall renoune thy bounty, setting *Hercules* pillars vpon thy fortune; and forbidding the whole world to goe any further in the act of Iustice and Goodnesse. Know then, that since election hath made me the Instrument to giue sentence in this altogether vndoubtfull atchieuement, I can doe no lesse then giue you what you haue most worthily wonne. Onely one taske our commission bindeth vs to impose vpon you, which I feare me (faire Sheepheard) is a labour too hard for your faith. You must, here, before the face of this great assembly, with all plainnesse of spirit, and auoyding the damned craft of inentall reseruatiō, abiure, and renounce all forraigne loues and affections, assuring vs by your solemne vowes, contained in most effectuall protestations, that your minde is cleere and free from all deuotion and seruice to any Nymph, except her alone, whom you haue gained by this most worthy conquest.

To this the Sheepheard thus replyed; You haue (faire Nymph) imposed on mee a taske so facile and easie, that I shall quickly passe through the same without any perturbation: for here, in the sight of heauen, and this famous pastorall assembly, I vow.

At this word the Nymph *Phoebe* interrupted him, saying; Sheepheard what wilt thou vow? O bee mindfull

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mindfull of thy vertue, and doe not wilfully run into damn'd periury.

But *Diatassan* replied, I am resolu'd, nor shall euer my faith wauer, or remoue from a resolution grounded vpon so much excellency. Heare me then you Iudges, and you people: for here I vow by the great Deity of *Minerva*, by our holy Saboths, and those chaste pleasures which makes our liues admired in all places, that on earth I reuerence, adore, and with sacred and chaste thoughts loue no Nymph but this diuine Lady. Neither is my faith inchained, nor hath my lippes giuen my heart to any, but onely her seruice; In which my desires are, that I may consummate my life, though a tribute much too humble for her worthinesse.

Neuer did tongue deliuer deeper falshoods (cryed out the Nymph *Aphelleia*) and with that, throwing her rich robe from her shoulders, shee descended from her high throne, and placing her lookes in iust opposition with the eyes of *Diatassan*, she said; Perjur'd and disloyall man, thou which makest a common mart of loue, exchanging thy faith for euery gaud, and spangle, which doth but adorne a womans countenance: behold here, before these Iudges and people, I accuse thee of periury to my selfe, treason to this faire Princessse, and of generall disgrace to all chaste and noble affection. Heare me you Iudges, I beseech you: This man (the blemish of mankind) first in *Minerva's* Temple, and in the hower of Orizons and Sacrifice, with as strong protestations as a violent loue could beget from a braine inflamed with a restless desire, he made tender vnto me of all
his

his faith, his zeale, and his purest affection; vowing that but my selfe, he neuer beheld the Nymph whose eye had power to fixe any fetter of liking in his bosome: to which *Circean* charme, when I had vnfortunately lent my (then too easie) eare, hee, with all earnestnesse, so greedily pursued the weaknesse of my beliefe; that againe, at *Minerva's* Fountaine renewing his oathes (for which heauens pardon him) hee so amplifies his sollicitation of loue; that abiuring all happinesse whensoever he should bee found recreant, or in the least imaginary sence, giue cause of doubt in his constancy, hee wonne from mee a chaste consent of honourable affection; which vnfortunately there I sealed, by the gift of a curious Jewell, which either he still possesseth, or negligently hath consumed; and now, with a *Mauritanian* countenance, sunne-burnt, and made blacke with the burning sinne of his falshood, hee shameth not onely to deny the act of his owne lippes, but, to the great disgrace of all Shepheards, makes holy vowes of no reputation; which if it shall finde sufferance in your iustice, or that no law be found penall for such inhumane deceit, then let your Temples bee still prophaned with such Idols, let your greene walkes wither with the foot-steps of vnworthy creatures, and make your selues mistresses of nothing but calumny, and imputation.

This speech, deliuered by the Nymph, with many abruptions of sighes and teares, wonne a feeling remorse in all the assembly, *Diasaffan* onely excepted, whose heart being fixed vpon another object, had no place left wherein to retaine any pittie; and

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to approue that the vse of sinne makes men sinne with more easinesse, hauing now entred himselfe within the lists of disgrace and falshood (shame arming him against shame) hee will, in despite of all oppositions, run through the worst of loues iniuries; and therefore, with a cheeke much more vnblushing then before, he thus spake to the Iudges: Faire Nymphes, within whose lippes my life consisteth, I take this day to be elected, not for the examination of old loues, coupled to much dotage, nor for the expence of Idle howers, filld full of our vanities; but to adiudge, in truth and vprightnesse, the deserts of euery mans fortune in this last dayes controuersie: which if it be so, I beseech you, let not the blemish which this too-much-louing maid inflicteth on my neuer-stained faith, take vp any place in your eares, but according to the pastorall lawes, and customes of these faire walkes, let mee receiue that iust sentence which belongeth both to mine actions and painfull seruice; and so much the rather, in that by my former abiuration, I haue made it cleere, that my faith standeth free, and vn-intangled with any forreigne affection.

To this the Nymph *Clea* made answer, It is true, Sheepheard, this is not a day to giue balme to any old vlcers, our Commission beeing created to another particular purpose: Yet thus much let mee assure thee, If thou shalt bee found of that mutability of spirit, to make a pastime in the abuse of pure virgins, the lawes of *Minerua* will lye heavy vpon thee, and thou shalt bee bound to answer thy deceit, whensoever the Iniured shall be pleased

to call thee. And when she had thus said, she turned herselfe to the Nymph *Aphelia*, and besought her, (since neither the time, place, nor strength of their Commission, could giue her wrongs satisfaction) to assume againe her place, and finish the work of their election; which shee obeying, in her passage to her throne, she presently said thus to the shepheard; cruellest of men, why me, aboue others, hast thou made the shame of thy disdain? Blush, repent, be not damned for euer; and so againe adorning herselfe in her robe of State, shee sate downe, and intreated the Nymph *Clea* to deliuer the sentence, for her lippes should neuer doe so worthy a Princeesse wrong, to adiudge her a seruant swolne so monstrous bigge with all indignity.

The Nymph obeying her request, commanded *Diasfan* and the Princeesse both to stand forth, and then charged him by the faith and loyalty of a true Shepheard, to declare, if according to the Articles contained in the proclamation, he had, without the assistance of Charme, or Incantment, the strength of any other arme, or the deceit of aduantage, not onely ouer-run the Princeesse in the Chace, but also slaine that fierce beast before shee could fasten any dart in his skinne. To which, with a great oath, hee replyed, that himselfe, and no other creature, but his particular person, without all aduantage, or deceit, had slaine the Tyger in such ample manner as the proclamation required: to which, as he was calling *Melidora* herselfe for a testimony, the most Princely *Adunatus*, rising suddenly frō his seat, and clapping his hand on the shoulder of *Diasfan*,

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san, hee said; Sheepheard, thou hast lyed before this vertuous assembly, as deepe as hell: for it was neither thine arme nor foot which was guilty of the conquest against this vertuous Princeesse, but the vntfortunate power of the euer-truly louing *Thirsis*, who, armed in thy disguise, conquered, and gaue thee the conquest, which with such ostentation thou most vntreally boasterh; And here he deliuered vnto the Iudges, at large, the manner of *Thirsis* delivery from the Inchanter, and all other passages betweene them, till that present, which he offered there to iustifie with his life, and the losse of the best blood he enjoyed. Which assertion, and vunexpected accusation, vttered so suddenly from a Sheepheard, whose tongue, nor person, no man knew, nor could challenge, draue all the assembly into so strange an amazement, that the generall murmure, which sounded ouer all the house, was so great, (though no words could be distinguished) that the Iudges were forc'd (a while) to stay in their proceedings, the most giuing credit to the report of the yong Sheepheard, though some few supposed it to be a stratagem of enuies inuention; but no mans wonder could be compared to *Diatassans*, who hearing his secret thoughts publickly vnsolded, imagined some spirit was risen from *Limbo* to detect the iniustice of his actions, but being armed with his former resolution, and hauing waded to the waste in his iniquity, willing now to step vp to the chinne ere any reuolt should doe him shame, he, with a mind as full of desperation as affection, made answer to the strange Sheepheard, that his mouth was full of slander, and his heart of mallice:
for

for greater vntruths could not proceed from falshood himselfe then were those accusations, which he most vniustly, and from a villanous nature imposed vpon him, which he swore he would make him confesse, vnder the fatall power of his reuenging arme; and with that falling vpon his knees he besought the Iudges to grant him the benefit of their antient Lawes, which was, by a Pastorall combat with Shepheards-crookes to approue his truth and vnstained fidelity: But scarcely were his knees bended, when the Prince *Adunatus* likewise bowed his to the ground, and made humble petition for the selfe-same fauour; but whilst they were vpon the ground, intreating for that which must, of force, be one of their confusions, there entred into the Theater another disguised Shepheard, whose face being concealed not any could fixe acquaintance to his person: Before him went a Shepheards boy, bearing in his hand a strong & wel-knotted Shephook, who as soone as hee was arriued before the Iudges, by the mouth of the boy hee deliuered these speeches.

Faire Virgines, and the elected mouthes of Iustice and wisdom; vertue, was neuer without enuy, nor is there any scale to aduancement without danger, as appeareth by the controuerfy of these two Shepheards, the one falsly accusing, the other falsely accused; For this Shepheard will heere approue by the strength of his arme, and the vse of this weapon, that all which this strange Shepheard hath spoken is false, and onely from malice inuented; neither can you in iustice refuse his appeale, for these

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many reasons: First, there is no equality that hee, whose dignity and merite is knowne and assured, should hazard the greatnesse of his fortune, vpon one, whose obscurity can giue no assurance of any worth; Next, the title and assertion he defendeth belongeth to another and not to himselfe; so that being but anothers Champion, it is reasonable that this worthy Sheepeheard enioy the like fauour, which my Maister likewise a stranger, equall in euery merite (till further knowledge approue the contrary) is willing to vnder-go, desiring that *Diatassan* may bee discharged, and his fortune made the arbitrator of this doubtfulnesse.

The Iudges demanded of *Diatassan* if hee would consent to this request? and he, whose owne selfe-guiltinesse, was worse then the sword of any publicke enemy, said.

That the consideration of the reasons before rehearsed, and not to dis-regard any benefite sent from the hand of fortune, made him will to consent that the tryall of his truth should depend vpon the fortune of this his vnknowne friend: But *Adonatus* said, let them both bee ioyned in the battle, for I am so safely guarded with sincere and religious truth that a whole Army cannot affright mee; After which wordes the combat was granted, onely betweene the two strange Sheepeheards, whom, after *Melio* and *Amintas* had searcht, and assured from all matter of aduantage, and taken both measure and suruey of their Sheep-hooks, they were brought into a place, which euer was preferued in the Theater, for such purposes, and onely fixe Sticklers to effect the will
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and commandements of the Iudges; and the loud instruments sounding a martiall flourish, they assayed one another with such vnspokeable violence that the God of Warre might haue learnt much skill from their furies: The battle was fierce, tedious, and doubtfull, death houering equally betweene them, yet not much affected to either of their fortunes; in the end, each of them ashamed of their owne weakenesse, and posselt with thoughts of one creation, which enuied the losse of so much time, turning their staues about their heads, they let them fall on each other with such heavy poise, that like the ruines of a falling Tower, they threatned destruction to all they touched; but with the astiue nymblenesse of their deliuer spirits they auoided that storme, and closing themselues body to body their grew a new combat betweene their feete as fierce as that of their hands, seeking by artificiall trippes to bring each other to the ground; which, when neither by any industry preuailed, they flew backe againe to the vse of their weapons, and in that retrait, striking at each other, the blowes were not so well defended but that they tooke off both their cappes, and left their faces naked and bare to the veiw of the whole assembly, so that *Adamas* knew his aduersary, whom all those people had euer acknowledged for the incomparable best-louing Sheepeheard, renowned *Thirsis*, to bee his onely best of friends, the most Princely *Thamastus*, in whose search hee had vowed to consume the whole substance of his life; and *Thamastus*, who so long had liued in those Walkes knowne onely by the name of *Thirsis*, knew that his aduersary

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aduersary *Adunatus*, was the most excellent Prince *Pyrophilus*, to whose loue his life was linkt in such euerlasting bonds, that no ioy on earth could equall the delight of his presence: and now beholding each others face, they suddainely fell downe vpon both their knees, *Pyrophilus* offering to yeeld his weapon vp to *Thamastus*, and *Thamastus* as earnest to resigne his to *Pyrophilus*, both, in this conquest, willing to be conquered, and neither content to rise as a victor, Which accident, driuing all the people into a strange amazement, one of the Stickleres was commanded to demand of them which was the victor, and they both with one voyce replied, hee, and hee, and then throwing their weapons from them, they ranne and embraced each other, with so much loue that friendship neuer bare a better countenance then at present; and the Stickler informed the Iudges that they both were ouer-come, yet neither conquered, at which euery creature reioysed, because their actions shewed them to be creatures of heroycall Spirits, but aboue all their ioyes exceeded at the sight of *Thirsis*, as well for the tender affection they bore to his presence, as also in that his knowledge was able to resolute that doubt, which yet stucke most strongly in the breasts of that assembly, and here-vpon the Iudges coniured *Thirsis*, by all his owne vertues, and by that loue which with such faithfulnessse he bore to the Princeesse, to declare if he were any actor in the former daies controuersy, and he made answer no, for his dispaire had long-since chidden from him all such hope, and that it was most assured, there was no other true victor then the

the best-deseruing *Diatassan*: This protestation, gaue euery one, but the Princesse, and *Adonatus*, a full satisfaction: And now were *Diatassans* hopes once more gotten vp to the high top-gallant of his ambition, and he beganne, as busily as before, to craue the sentence due to his merite.

But *Oppianus* and *Colin*, stepping forth, (because the day began to grow a little aged) and besought the Iudges, before they proceeded to any other sentence first to giue doome vpon that wickedest of all creatures, that Theefe, and most lustfull rauisher of Virgines, the euer-feared *Demagoras*, whom in their pursuite of the chase, they had found ambuscadoed to take aduantage of euery weake fortune, with whom hauing held a long and tedious fight, in the end, through their double force they tooke prisoner, and there deliuered vp to the iudgement of their Lawes, which said: *Minerua's* lawes were forth-with read to the prisoner, who pleaded guilty to all, and accursing his bad fortune that it was culpable of no more euill, vowed that if his raigne had longer continued he would haue made all *Theffaly* haue quakt with the report of his cruelties, vpon which desperate and diuelish protestation, the Nymph *Aphelcia* gaue sentence, that hee should immediately bee bound to a stake (there erected in that Theater for such like executions) and so shot to death with the arrowes of Sheepheards, Which execution, being forth-with put in practise, and the prisoner standing bound to the mercy of his death; hee besought the Sheepheards, before they discharged their arrowes in his bosome, so giue attentiu care vnto his last

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speech; and they by their silence let him vnderstand that they gaue consent to his desire, so that lifting his voyce on high, he thus spake vnto them.

Know you *Thesalsians* to whose powers, and not trespases, my life is forfeited, that it is not your sleight crimes, sheepish pillages, nor the disburdening of a few too-long borne Mayden-heads, (by your Language called raiishments) for which I die; no, my damnation was long since created, and the crying sinne which hath inuokt the Gods to lay this shame on my fortune, was an act so monstrous and barbarous, that a hunger-sterued Tyger would not haue presumed vpon so huge a cruelty.

Know then that I was borne in the Kingdome of *Dalmatia*, where whilst I liued, accompanied with any vertue, I was a Duke, and Governour of a faire Prouince, my name *Astense*; And here hee made a pause.

Whilst the Nymph *Aphelia*, starting from her seate, beganne to gaze strangely about her, and to fixe her cares to his words with a more earnest attention; then he proceeded.

In this Kingdome of *Dalmatia*, there raigned a King of infinite wisdom and prowesse, approued both by his conquests and peacefull gouernement: the one keeping in awe his neighbours, the other making rich his subiects: This King was blest with one onely most excellent daughter, whose raiishing beauty had so inflamed my heart, with all the burning torches of loue, that nothing was plenteous in my thoughts but onely the memory of her excellencies, but this loue of mine was soone made desperate

perate by the arriual of the yong Prince of *Sicil*, who hauing formerly negotiated a marriage, the articles were soone concluded on both parties; so that heere vertue began to forsake mee, and from hence ielousy, frenzy, and enuy, stirred vp in my soule all the vnspeakeable mischiefes which euer were accurst by good people: And finding that my loue was vtrly without hope, I now studied how to make the world and men as voide of all comfort, so it chanced, that on a day coming into the presence of the yong Princeesse, I found her in chaste and noble daliance with the yong Prince her troth-plight seruant, at whose happinesse, my enuy so much repined, that drawing forth a strong and most impoysoned fume (which I euer carried about mee) I cast it vpon her face, whose contagious working was so violent, that shee instantly died in the armes of her deere loued Lord and admirer, with whose breath, her soule flying forth, it carried from the earth, all beauty, all vertue, all excellency, all goodnesse; as for my selfe, whose damned act euen the diuels themselues did repine at, I presently fled and came into these Walkes, which being most famous for all manner of peacefull happinesse, I vowed to make most desolate and accursed, through my tiranny, cruelty, and iniury, and heere againe hee made a great pause. The while the Nymph *Aphelia*, whose passion could no longer smother her speeches, demanded of the dying man, what was the name of her, whom he so impoysoned? And he answered, that her name was *Clara stella*, Shee then demanded the name of the Prince of *Sicil*? And he replied, *Enstatio*: And what

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(said she) became of the Prince after the death of his infortunate Lady? Report (replied *Demagoras*) brutéd, that hee ranne to the toppes of the Mountaines, and thence threw him selfe head-long into the Seas.

But hee had scarcely pronounced his last word, when *Diatassan*, no longer able to imprison his fury, rusht thorough the throng, and comming neerer the prisoner, hee said; Monster of men, and the viter detestation of thy mothers wombe, know that *Eustatio* is not dead, but liues to take a deeper reuenge of thine vnnaturall cruelty: for euen my selfe am that once vnfortunate Prince, who being exiled from all ioy, by the tyranny of thy malice; after I had caused rumour to blazon my death, (that pursuit might not hinder my purpose) I came into these walks, where, in a Shepheards coat, I vow to consume the remnant of my dayes in vaste solitude.

And then turning to the Iudges, he besought them, that himselfe might adde torments to his death, who had annext endlesse calamities to his life. But the Nymph *Aphelcia* replied, that it was contrary to their lawes, which beeing grounded vpon pittie and commisseration, rather afforded ease then agony to the afflicted: and so (said she) for mine owne part, I will giue his departing soule some satisfaction, and disburden it of that with which it appears to bee most crucified.

And then turning her speeches to the prisoner, shee said; My Lord *Astense*, I beseech you repent your last crimes: for touching your great trespasse,
of

of which you seeme to retaine the greatest feeling, I thus purge you: Know that I am that *Clara-Stella* which your enuy seeking to destroy the dumbe poyson, much more merciful then your malice, wrought not his effects so strongly as to take away my life, but onely brought mee to a dead sleepe, which time banishing from my senses, I returned to my former knowledge; But missing him, whose Image onely was ingrauen vpon my heart, I fledde in disguise from the Court, and came into *Tempe*, where I vowed the expence of my life in the seruice of the Gods, and the chaste delights of modest virgins.

And hauing thus spoken, *Diatassan* fell vpon his knees to the ground, and humbly besought her to pardon him, for in her alone was confined all his true lone, and all his most faithfull affection.

But shee told him; shee durst not giue credit where shee had found so much strange inconstancy; neither was it possible that hee could leaue his new desires for his old promises.

But hee replied; as *Diatassan*, hee was subiect to much mutability; but as *Eustasio*, hee was euer constant, and neuer desired other glory then his dearest *Clara-Stella*; which I will witnesse by this action: And then taking *Thirsis* by the hand, hee presented him to the Princessse, with a publique confession of all truthe, in such manner as the Prince *Adunatus* had formerly declared. A ioy so full of all contentment and delight to the Princessse, that her dead spirits being awakned out of a sorrowfull lethargie, began to daunce *Lenalto's* in her bosome; and shee

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enquired of *Thirsis* what that strange Sheeheard was, who had so vertuously entred into the Combate, and with such admiration left it most happily perfect, with a blest imperfection. And he delared vnto her, that he was his owne naturall brother, borne in *Arcadia*, who stirred vp, with the report of those triumphes, was come onely to behold an end of their proceedings.

Vpon which report the Princeesse gaue him a most intire and gracious welcome; and then congratulating the prosperous and most happy meeting of the Princeesse of *Dalmatia*, and the Prince of *Sicil* (whom their lawes could not touch, through the eternity of their vowes) she tendred vnto them all the fauours whatsoeuer *Tempe* enjoyed: and they only besought her, since that blissefull day had brought vnto them all the ioyes of their wishes, that she would be pleased to pardon the condemned Duke, whom they intended to take from those walkes, and plant in his former greatnesse.

To which the Princeesse gaue ample consent: and so the prisoner being vnbound; *Clarastella*, as she was *Apbeleia*, ascended once more her throne, and gaue this iudgement of the prizes.

First, that *Thirsis* should enjoy the free gift of the Princeesse: Next, that *Diatassan*, in as much as his picture and likenesse had wonne the honour and glory of the day, that hee should enjoy the picture of the Princeesse. Then, that *Oppicus*, who had first entred into combat with *Demagoras*, should enjoy the rich garland. And lastly, that *Colin*, by whose prowesse and seconds the Out-law was taken; and so
their

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their launds purged of huge massacres should possesse *Thamyclodias* well-sounding Harpe. At the end of which sentence the whole assembly gaue a great shout, saying; That *Minerua* could not haue bettered her censure. And then the Princeesse giuing commandement for Eglogs, Maskes, Vvraftlings, and all manner of pastorall delights which might giue entertainment to these new-discovered fortunes, euery Instrument sounding, and all hearts reioycing, they marched from the Theater in the same manner as they entred, and came to the lodge of the Princeesse, where they consumed that night in feasting, dauncing, and all of other pastimes which had any taste either of wit or Inuention.

The end of the first Booke.

